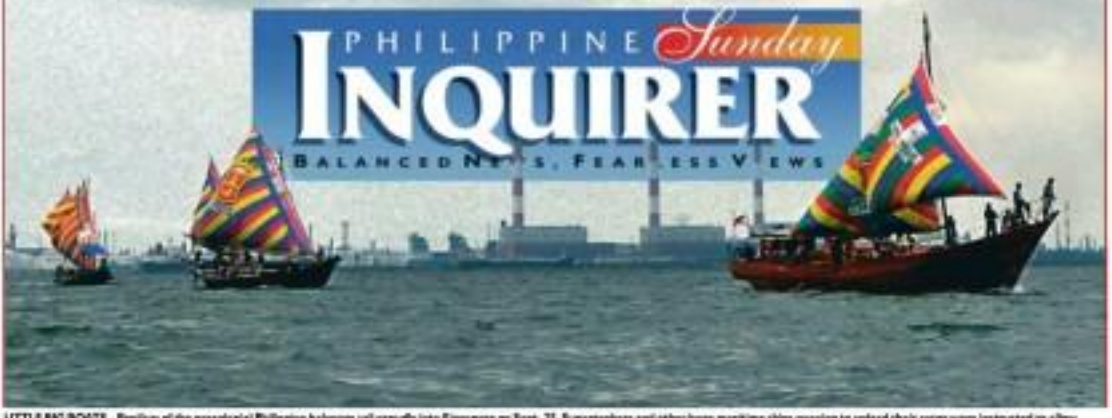
Sunday, October 3, 2010 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 297 P28

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



LITTLE BIG BOATS Replicas of the precolonial Philippine balangay sail proudly into Singapore on Sept. 25. Supertankers and other huge maritime ships queuing to unload their cargo were instructed to allow passage to the Philippine vessels. The Filipino seafarers led by Art Valdez beam proudly to see the Philippine flags fluttering their way into Singapore's Yacht Club. The Lion City is the balangay's 12th foreign stopover. On Oct. 1, the balangays arrive in Terengganu, Pahang, East Malaysia. It's halfway in its journey through Southeast Asia. (See story on Page A8.)

P-Noy, bishops set talks

But President reiterates his stand on pro-choice family planning

By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT AQUINO is not about to modify his stance on informed family planning, but he sought yesterday to calm the raging debate between his administration and officials of the Catholic Church over the adoption of a reproductive health (RH) framework for the country.

In a move that may appease opponents of the RH measures now pending in both chambers of Congress, the President acknowledged that "the state is not empowered by any law to dictate upon any couple how they should plan their family." But he pointed out that the government "has an obligation to educate all of its citizens as to their choices."

"I haven't seen the new RH bill pending in the House, but my stand has not changed," he told reporters in an ambush interview at the Bureau Compound in Tondo, Manila.

Mr. Aquino said he had a dialogue on Friday with a number of Catholic bishops to tackle the issue now roiling society in general. He did not name the bishops he had met with, but said a bigger gathering was in the works.

He added that he was open to meeting "as many [bishops] as possible" to resolve the controversy.

Bishop Nereo Odchimar, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), earlier invited RH bill advocates—who have become critics of the Church—to a dialogue.

"We will have a dialogue so there

P-NOY, A4

Why Fil-Am tycoon flew 12 hours to RP, left same day

By Lira Gutierrez
Correspondent

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA—President Aquino had barely warmed his seat in Malacañang in May when he was visited by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and philanthropist Dionisio Ramos.

Ramos, who flew to Manila largely as chair of what was then known as Ayala Foundation USA (since renamed Philippine Development Foundation), freshened up from his 12-hour trans-Pacific flight and motored to the Palace. He flew back to San Francisco that same evening.

He was accompanied in the trip and subsequent audience with the new President by Ayala Corp. president and COO Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Vicky D Garchitorena, foundation vice chair and

VISIT FIL-AM, A4

To teacher, super thanks for making *the* difference

By Terra Quimpando

ON TUESDAY, how about saying thanks to a favorite teacher?

The Department of Education is calling on all Filipinos—whether student, policeman, office worker or government employee, etc.—to send a simple message of gratitude to at least one former teacher to commemorate World Teachers' Day.

"On Oct. 5, every Filipino should just do one simple thing. Please thank one teacher who has made a difference in your life. You will not know what effect you will be able to contribute to the reform of education," said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

TO TEACHER, A6

8 homeless kids winning game of life

DREAMS CAN COME TRUE The 8th Annual Homeless World Cup at the famous Copacabana beach in Rio, Brazil, was the setting for the dream competition that eight young men from the Philippines topped—and they have a Host Cup trophy to show for it. More than their football skills, the award represents hearts full of high hopes. The annual event is held to call universal attention to the issue of homelessness. JOHN MARK ATIENZA OF HOMELESS PEOPLE FEDERATION

By Sunshine Liwanag de Leon
Contributor

WHEN THE Philippine team came home last week from the 8th Annual Homeless World Cup's (HWC) international football competition in Brazil, the Host Cup trophy they carried, stood for more than just football skills—it represented the hope now filling their hearts.

Although the eight young men representing their country had lived in extreme poverty all their lives, they left for Rio de Janeiro for the international tournament held Sept. 19 to 26, having learned to dream again. And they returned knowing that sometimes, dreams really can come true.

This is the third year the Philippines has participated in the HWC (www.homelessworldcup.org), an annual event held in different cities around the world in order to call attention to the issue of homelessness.

All players must be homeless, marginally homeless, or a recent-

8 HOMELESS, A13

Noynoy sees first 100 days through glass half-full

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY'S first bachelor president will mark his first 100 days in office next Friday with a mix of early accomplishments and some serious setbacks attributed by detractors to inexperience and inefficiency.

But President Aquino prefers to look at the proverbial glass as "half-full" rather than "half-empty."

"There are really some people whose

NOYNOY, A11

Tondo poor first of 4.6M set to get free PhilHealth

By Christine V. Esguerra

JANICET DELOS, 30, woke up early as usual on a Saturday.

She set about her early morning ritual in her Tondo shack—prepare the kids, cook brunch (and hope something would still be left over for dinner), and pray that her husband, a factory worker, would continue to be gainfully employed.

Apart from job anxiety, there is always the nagging fear that if any one in the family were to fall seriously ill, the utter lack of money would mean the loss of a life.

For as long as Janicet can remember, no one in her family has ever stepped into a private hospital.

But she hopes all that will change now that she has been granted a membership card from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

Janicet was one of several thousands indigent residents who trooped to the "PhilHealth Sahods" booths for the nationwide registration that lasted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. yesterday.

Janicet and her neighbors at the Bureau Compound in Manila were especially fortunate as President Aquino no less witnessed the registration process to underscore his government's promise "to lessen the burden on the poor in terms of health care expenses."

Mr. Aquino said the objective was to enroll with the state-run health insurer 5 million poor Filipinos within the next three years.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said the goal was "doable." She said an initial 800,000 beneficiaries would receive free PhilHealth membership.

They were identified through the DSWD's National Household Targeting System (NHTS), the mechanism that was used to determine the "poorest of the poor" Filipinos who were to become beneficiaries of the government's conditional cash transfer program.

Soliman said the NHTS core has in its database a total of 4.6 million people whom the DSWD hopes to all

TONDO, A13

• **Ballsy and Pinky** wear I Am Cory art limited collection • Tragic hostage-taking packs in the curious to RP pavilion in Shanghai's World Expo • UST to hold 'Grand Living Rosary' in thanksgiving for its 400th anniversary next year SUNDAY LIFESTYLE • **POI talks** to Julia on eating, praying, loving • Combative Starlet loses lucrative contract ENTERTAINMENT • **7 tips** to make your garage sale a success • How to sell through ebay in 5 easy steps • The clutter-buster: She's not your mom but can't wait to straighten the mess SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE • **Noy praises** Mayor Lim for 'job well done' • Gov't responsible for rights worker's death, says UN • Gabriela backs PAL attendants NEWS • **RP war** on terror toll on US: 11 GIs ACROSS THE NATION

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49	
9	23
29	13
7	30
SUERTRES	
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SIX DIGIT	
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P17,321,275.00	
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Noy praises Lim for 'job well done'

Commendation comes before Palace move on IIRC

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday heaped praises on Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, describing him as "really good," days before he was to release his decision on the Incident Investigation and Review Committee (IIRC) report, which had recommended charges against the local executive.

The President deviated from his prepared speech in a Tondo, Manila, event to commend Lim, a long-time ally of his family, for work done by the Manila city government in the impoverished Bonero Compound.

"Ulikbel (congestion Bureau where I sit four feet earlier. I said is walk on rocks and mud here before. Now, much of the ground is paved. Mayor Lim is really good," he told residents in Filipino.

Mr. Aquino added: "But more credit goes to the people of Tondo because you chose Mayor Lim."

But he later clarified that he was praising Lim ally only for the job he had done to help alleviate poverty in the area. "He really has done a lot to the community and this is what we are commending him for," he said.

Among the IIRC recommendations were the filing of administrative and criminal charges against Lim for negligence, issuing an illegal order, abandoning the hostage-taking scene and "in general, for failure to perform his duties as CMC (crisis management committee) chairman."

In his own speech, Lim said: "We're following the advisory of our President to give priority to the poor. You see the evidence here."

The President said the Palace was not to release to the public by "mid-next week" the outcome of its review on the 61-page IIRC report on the Aug. 23 hostage crisis.

Asked if he adopted the recommendations of the IIRC headed by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, he told reporters "Most of it was adopted."

Generic recommendations

The President said he met with Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, a member of the IIRC, on Friday night to discuss details of the report, which recommended the filing of charges against Lim and other officials involved in the Aug. 23 hostage crisis.

Mr. Aquino said one of the considerations was providing details to what he called "generic" recommendations on the filing of administrative and criminal charges against certain people who played a role in the botched hostage rescue operations that led to the deaths of eight Hong Kong tourists.

"We need to work on the implementation plan, what the specific violations are and the corresponding penalties, the processes involved... those are the things we have been working on since yesterday," he said.

Aquino's test

But if members and many of the recommendations might survive scrutiny, what authorities eventually decide to carry them out.

"Certain laws may be lacking in terms of penalizing a certain act or omission," he said.

Critics said the Aug. 23 hostage crisis at the Luneta was the first test of the Aquino administration.

On that day, dismissed police-man Rolando Mendoza took over a tourist bus, held its passengers hostage and demanded reinstatement.

The drama ended in bloodbath when one blunder after another punctuated negotiations to bring the hostage-taking to a peaceful end.

PRESIDENT Aquino listens to Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who was praised by the President for "good work" in his city, as conversation for the distribution of PhilHealth cards to the poor in Tondo. Lim's ties in connection with the IIRC probe of the Aug. 23 hostage-taking at the Luneta live in the hands of Mr. Aquino.

Subsidize outpatient costs, too, gov't told

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A GROUP of cancer patients is urging the Department of Health to draw up a subsidy that would qualify outpatient expenses for subsidy through the government's health-care insurance program.

The government must provide a benefit package for outpatients and maintenance medication for people suffering from chronic diseases, according to Jenes Asaro, executive director of the Cancer Warriors Foundation, in a statement.

"Children are the most common victims of the government's inadequate health-care delivery," said Asaro. Treatment of children with leukemia costs roughly P15,000 monthly, excluding ambulatory and infections arise.

The bulk of the expenses is usually shouldered by the family of the afflicted, said Asaro, a cancer survivor himself.

The World Health Organization has recommended that each country devote five percent of its gross domestic product for health care.

The Philippines allots only 3.5 percent of its GDP to health care while "out of the pocket expenses" of families who have sick family members eat up half of their incomes, said the group.

According to Salvacion Bautista, spokesperson for Cut the Cost, Cut the Pain Network, the government's Philippine Health Insurance only accounts for 32 to 33 percent of the country's total health care expenditures.

Gov't responsible for rights worker's death–UN

By Lolis E. Sidorenko

THE UNITED Nations Human Rights Committee has found the Philippine government responsible for the 2002 death of human rights worker Benjaline Hernandez who was shot dead by paramilitary forces.

"The committee, based on the material before it, finds that the [Philippine government] is responsible for the death of Ms. Benjaline Hernandez, and concludes that there has been a violation of article 6, paragraph 1, of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights] with regard to Ms. Benjaline Hernandez," it said.

The committee said the government violated its obligations to provide effective remedies to the late Benjaline's case, as required by the covenant.

The Philippine government is obliged under article 6, paragraph 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to protect the right to life and to prevent or refrain from the arbitrary deprivation of life.

Benjaline's mother, Evangeline, represented by the Ecumenical Human rights group, went to the UN to seek justice for her daughter.

The Philippines is a party to the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

Benjaline, deputy secretary-general of Karapatan Southern Mindanao, was conducting research on the impact of the peace process on the community of Arakan when members of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit, led by a 7th Army Battalion officer, attacked the fact where she and several others were about to have lunch.

An autopsy showed that Benjaline was shot at close range while she lay on her back.

In its findings, the UN committee said that Benjaline's killing by paramilitary forces was unlegislated.

It rejected the government's denial that the military was responsible as un convincing evidence was submitted.

It said the Philippines also failed to submit convincing information that it had taken action to fulfill its obligations under the covenant.

Though the government filed a case against one officer and a few others, no one else had been prosecuted or brought to justice in connection with Hernandez's killing, it said.

It also said that while the government provided data on the establishment of the Melo Commission and limited drum guidelines for special courts to address extrajudicial killings, it did not say how these initiatives would contribute to the resolution of Benjaline's case.

These actions also fail to explain the lack of progress in Benjaline's case in the courts, it added.

It pointed out that the State party (that is, the Philippines) is obliged to ensure that the remedies it employs are effective.

"A State party may not avoid its responsibilities under the covenant with the argument that the domestic courts are dealing with the matter, when the remedies relied upon by the State party have been unreasonably prolonged," it said.

The UN committee told the government in submit to it information about the measures it has taken to address the committee's views within 180 days.

The government told the committee that Evangeline's letter to the UN was premature and that she had not exhausted all the domestic remedies available to her.

It denied that the cases Evangeline had filed before the courts and the Commission on Human Rights had been unreasonably delayed.

It said it had taken other steps to address extra-judicial killing cases.

Balangay crew hopes to see President Aquino in Hanoi

By Alexis Papa

A 15th-CENTURY "balangay" with a Philippine crew is halfway through its journey around Southeast Asia and is poised to undertake its most dangerous leg, crossing the stormy South China Sea, crew leader Art Valdez told the Inquirer yesterday.

Valdez, a former Undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications and former leader of the Philippine 598, Everest team, said they hoped to make it to Hanoi, Vietnam by the end of this month in time for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit there.

While in Vietnam, Valdez said the Balangay crew hopes to meet Presidente Aquino.

"We hope to meet him in Vietnam and invite him to see us at the port," Valdez said. He added that they would try to convey to Mr. Aquino the importance of their voyage.

"We will tell him that Filipinos should reconnect and revive their maritime consciousness. The sea has always been part of our environment and our culture. But we lost to become of colonialism," Valdez said.

At present, Valdez and his crew are in Terengganu in Penang, East Malaysia, the center of traditional shipbuilding in Malaysia.

"We are halfway through our journey," he said, adding that they would sail next across the gulf of Thailand and soon Bangkok next week. From Thailand, they plan to sail to Cambodia and Vietnam.

The Balangay was in Singapore last Sept. 28. Valdez said the crew was welcomed warmly by crews of sea vessels from around the world.

"When we sailed into Singapore, the port announced our arrival and asked the other international vessels, including supertankers, to give way for us since we had no engine. We could see the same welcome extended to us by Filipino crewmembers in the vessels as we passed by. That is proof that the Filipino is one of the best seafarers in the world," Valdez recalled.

From Hanoi, Valdez said they would sail to Danang, Vietnam. From there, they will make the South China Sea crossing to reach Palawan sometime in November. He said this would be the longest leg of their journey and the longest time they would be spending in the open sea.

"We will be out in open sea for a week. It will also be the most dangerous since there might still be storms in the South China Sea in November," Valdez explained.

In Palawan, the crew will visit the world-famous Tubbataha Reef, a favorite of divers from around the globe. From there, they plan to sail to Puray Island and meet Lumo through the famed Hundred Islands in Pangasinan.

Despite the dangers they face, Valdez said the morale of the crew was high. "The response is every port we have been to is very warm. No one has been sick. Most of the time, we have been feasting on fish."

The crew members of the Balangay crew are: Janet Bernstein-Sardena, Cezira Deyondon, Lee Dandoy, Ernie Emata, Nardo Wenceslao, Dr. Ted Esguerra, Fred Jandi and Dr. Wilfrito Pelayo.

Sarmen, Deyondon, Oracion, Emata, Wenceslao, Esguerra and Jandi were with Valdez's successful Mt. Everest teams that planted the Philippine flag on the world's highest mountain.

In 2006, Oracion and Emata were the first and second Filipinos to conquer Everest respectively.

A year later, Deyondon, Wenceslao and Andreas were the first Southeast Asian women to scale Everest in dramatic fashion, starting their ascent from the South side and going down the North side for a historic crossover of the mountain.

"This voyage is a once-in-a-lifetime event, just like our journey to Everest. The voyage of the Balangay is symbolic of regional unity. It also has historical value because at one time in our history, we were all connected by marine highways," said Valdez.

He also said their balangay journey was more enjoyable than their trips to Mt. Everest, which has been known to claim lives every climbing season.

"The sea is our natural environment. We are more at home in the sea, not like the high altitude of Everest," he said.

ART VALDEZ skipper of Balangay which could berth in Hanoi when Asean holds its summit.

Paracetamol declared the only medicine for fever caused by dengue.

The World Health Organization claimed that Paracetamol does not irritate or cause swelling on the stomach lining. Other types of medicine like aspirin or ibuprofen may aggravate gastritis or bleeding.*

Parents are advised to watch out for dengue symptoms: nausea, severe headache, vomiting, loss of appetite, abdominal and muscle pains, lethargy or irritability/restlessness. Bleeding of nose and gums. But the most common sign is fever.*

So, at the first sign of fever you fear may be caused by dengue, it is advised that you give your child Paracetamol Calpol. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Nothing works faster than the Paracetamol in Calpol.

*2009 WHO Dengue Guidelines for Diagnosis, Treatment, Prevention and Control

Strike notices down by 12 %, labor chief reports

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE A labor strike threatens to break out at Philippine Airlines, the total number of notices of strikes in the country is down by 12 percent, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said yesterday.

Baldoz also said the labor department would exert more efforts to promote industrial peace by reorganizing the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) to provide for "inclusive representation and participation" of more worker groups in the council.

She said the reconstruction of the TIPC is part of the reforms under the Aquino administration's labor and employment agenda.

"The agenda seeks the enhancement of tripartite cooperation aimed at ensuring industrial peace which is essential in business and investments growth and the generation and preservation of jobs," Baldoz said in a statement.

She said National Conciliation and Mediation Board Executive Director Reynaldo Daldo reported that 186 notices of strike or lockout cases had been filed this year, which is 12 percent less than the 225 cases filed during the same period last year.

Its number of workers involved in these notices declined by seven percent, from 47,000 to 43,038.

For that with 40 cases pending from last year, notices of strike or lockout cases handled during the period totaled 246.

Of the 399 cases filed since January, 149 involved unfair labor practice (ULP) issues, while 98 involved bargaining deadlock 2021. Four cases raised both ULP and BO issues, Daldo said.

The 99 CNB reports showed that 204 of the 246 notices of strike or lockout handled since January have been disposed of. The 83 percent disposition rate which is four percentage points higher than the figure last year.

The board likewise settled 71 percent or 176 cases, seven percentage points higher than the figure last year.

He said benefits from collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) resulting from settlement of 83 cases totaled P866 million, benefiting 5,204 workers. Negotiations and mediation packages amounting to P31 million also benefited 1,603 workers.

He reported 11 new preventive mediation cases in the first half of September.

Gabriela backs PAL stewardesses

By Michael Lim Ubac

OF "STANDING tall" and upholding the dignity of women even amid threats of losing their jobs, members of the Flight Attendants' and Stewards' Association of the Philippines (Fasap) have earned the respect and admiration of a women's party list group in Congress.

"Flight attendants have much to gain by standing tall and claiming their rights, many of all, their dignity as women," said Gabriela Rep. Emerenciana A. de Jesus in a statement.

She said Gabriela was throwing its support behind Fasap after the latter stood pat on its planned strike that could paralyze the operations of national flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL).

Fasap last Wednesday announced that it would go on strike after PAL repeatedly rejected its major demands, particularly on the retrenchment of workers and end to a controversial company policy that forces female flight attendants to retire at the age of 40.

"The fight of the flight attendants and stewards is a fight that all 50 million women should support as it is clearly a case of gender discrimination," said De Jesus.

The lawmaker said the labor dispute was a test case for the country's labor laws.

She said that Fasap should be commended for "standing firm to its commitment to uphold the rights of its female members."

PAL's policies, she said, treated female stewards as "eye candy for passengers, and not the safety personnel that they primarily are."

"We should also emphasize that all Filipino workers, whether in private or public, should support Fasap's fight because it is also a fight against a big capitalist who thinks he is bigger than the law and can do anything just as he can extract super profits from the workers of PAL," she added.

PAL is owned by the Lucio Tan group.

She called on Fasap to stand firm and continue to fight for the rights of its members against discrimination and economic exploitation.

On Friday, the Department of Labor and Employment said it was prepared to bar the planned strike, citing the "national interest."

A final round of talks between PAL and its flight attendants' union is set for Oct. 5.

The talks, which have been going on for years now, are being mediated by the National Conciliation and Mediation Board. The labor secretary has not yet assumed jurisdiction over the case.

However, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz has already said that she could invoke her "reserve powers" to assume jurisdiction over the dispute, which would make the planned strike illegal.

"We are [looking] after the interest of the ruling public. PAL is still the national carrier and there is the national interest to protect," she said. "If our intervention will not reached, the secretary could decide on the dispute, Baldoz explained.

ICC High School Batch '85 reunion

HIGH SCHOOL Batch '85 of the Immaculate Conception College of St. Mary's College) of Boac, Marinduque, will be celebrating its 25th class reunion on Oct. 9.

"Aware still for us," this 'Oldest' Space Found (www.Oldest.net/under.php/page/show/Index) is Columbia, Laguna , Guam is 6.46, 8.0 Cycle, class can get in touch with Raquel Alano, cats de la Cruz at 0917-5288879 for us. Formation. They can also be reached via e-mails for 25th Class Reunion, ICC High School Batch 85.

Customs man meted 10 years for estafa and graft

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has convicted a former of Customs (BOC) official of estafa and of violation of the antigraft law for helping sell an impounded car to a private individual, and failing to deliver the proceeds despite the payment.

The antigraft court's Fifth Division sentenced lawyer Jorge Cruz, formerly a director of the BOC's Financial Services, to six to 12 years' imprisonment for violation the antigraft law, and four to 14 years' imprisonment for estafa.

Money was also barred from holding public office and directed to return the P1.4 million that he got from complainant Juliet Lim Co for his car.

According to a statement from the Office of the Ombudsman, Monroy had asked Co if he wanted to buy a vehicle that the BOC had confiscated. Co said she wanted a Toyota Land Cruiser, priced at P1.4 million.

The BOC official then asked for a P150,000 downpayment.

Monroy subsequently called up Co to tell her that the papers had been processed and she could pay the balance of the consumer in cash. Accordingly to Co, she gave the money to Monroy and he assured it out him. still.

But she said the vehicle was not released on that day because Monroy's co-accused also needed the signatures of customs official. She was asked to return on another day.

Monroy gave her a letter stating that if the car was not released by July 27, 2000, he would give her back her payment.

The days came and the car was still not ready for release.

Monroy told her that she would not get back her money because someone from his office still with the money and could not be found. Hence, the vehicle could not be released.

HOSPICE WEEK 2010

Now in its 7th year of celebrating Hospice & Palliative Care Week (every first week of October) in the Philippines, HOSPICE PHILIPPINES, the umbrella organization of hospice and palliative care individuals and institutions in the Philippines, joins 64 countries all over the world in the celebrations of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on October 9 2010 with this year's theme "Sharing the care".

This theme highlights the role of partnerships to support care for people living with a life limiting illness. The day will highlight how good working partnerships between service providers, governments, hospitals, people living with the disease, carers and community members are vital to the provision of quality care.

MESSAGE OF HEALTH SEC. ENRIQUE T. ONA

Warmest greeting to the officers and members of the Hospice Philippines, a noble organization which raises awareness and understanding of the needs – physical, social, practical, spiritual – of people living with life-limiting illnesses.

On the 7th observance of World Hospice Day in our country, with the theme "Sharing the Care," the Department of Health and Hospice Philippines "share the care" with patients and their families, health professionals, government and non-government organizations, development partners, and other institutions for a better understanding of hospice care.

Congratulations for the partnership and networks that have impacted on the quality of hospice and palliative care for our countrymen in need.

ENRIQUE T. ONA, M.D., FPCS, FACS
Secretary of Health

HOSPICE PHILIPPINES MESSAGE

It is my great pleasure and honor to greet all of you, my co-workers in hospice and palliative care, as we celebrate the 7th NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK (HOSPICE WEEK) from October 1 to 9, 2010.

Our celebration of HOSPICE WEEK is coordinated with the observance of WORLD HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE DAY on October 9, 2010. The theme for this year's celebration is **"SHARING THE CARE"**. The theme is indeed very appropriate to the care we give to our hospice and palliative patients since our care is one administered with compassion by a team of caregivers of various disciplines. This is one area of care where lay persons share with those in the medical profession an equally important component in the circle of care that is required for hospice patients. The "SHARING OF CARE" allows us to share experiences of joys, sadness, concerns, frustrations, fulfillments, frustrations and triumphs that widen and enrich our horizons of care for hospice patients.

Let us be steadfast in our ministry of care to patients afflicted with terminal cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. Let us be consoled that our compassionate care for them is their last threshold of a beautiful remembrance of their life on earth. Let us all walk them safely to their new home in heaven where all of us belong.

ALEJANDRO B. ARCALAS
President

MESSAGE OF DR. ROBERTO M. PATIÑO IN CELEBRATION OF HOSPICE WEEK, OCT. 3-9, 2010

In behalf of the PHILIPPINE CANCER SOCIETY, INC. (PCSI), I wish everyone to join us in the commemoration of Hospice Week from October 1 to 9, 2010 with the theme, "Sharing the Care," under the capable guidance of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Council of the Philippines (NHPCCP).

We are confident that the NHCCE imbued with the compassionate care for cancer patients, can now make a difference as we continue to share resources, talent and dedication for hospice patients. "Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:10)

MBA-JURIS DOCTOR
DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Application Deadlines:
1 October 2010 | 21 October 2010 | 28 October 2010

Testing Dates:
8 October 2010 | 22 October 2010 | 30 October 2010

Requirements can be viewed at:
http://www.dlsu.edu.ph/academics/graduate/mba_law.asp

For inquiries, contact:
Graduate Admissions Office
De La Salle University
2401 Taft Avenue, Manila
Tel: 524-4611 ext. 408
Telefax: 522-1270

DLSU-Manila Extension Campus
5th Floor, BDO Building Tower 2
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: 753-4870

DLSU Institute of Law
5th Floor, BDO Building Tower 2
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: 848-7270

The business of law.

"Malayo ang iyong mararating kung ang mga sumusunod ay susundin."

FREE MRT RIDES

All runners are allowed FREE TRANSPORT through MRT3 from 4:00 AM to 9:00AM. Just present your race bib.

REGISTRATION & RACE KITS

Online registration is now closed. Interested runners can still register offline through the listed markers.

Deadline for payment and claiming of race kits for individual runners is on October 2, 2010. After that deadline, our partner retail outlets will be closed.

Registration and distribution of kits is on a first come, first serve basis.

People who are wearing the Official Race Bib and ID will be allowed within the race areas.

GUNSTART, START & FINISH LINE

Category	Start	Finish	Gunstart
2K	SM Mall of Asia	SM Mall of Asia	5:30 AM
5K	CCP	SM Mall of Asia	5:30 AM
10K	Ayala corner Makati Ave.	SM Mall of Asia	5:30 AM

21K – This is a pneumatic run that is closed to the public and will be run by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police contingents.

VEHICLE PARKING

All runners are encouraged to carpool. For those who will be bringing their personal vehicles, designated parking slots will be opened early at the starting line. Slots will be on a first come, first served basis.

BAGGAGE DEPOSIT

Runners may opt to deposit their baggage on ETK Logistics.

Baggage Deposit Counters can be found at the starting line. Baggage counters open at 3:30 AM.

You can claim your baggage near the finish line once the race is finished; just present your race bib.

A RUN FOR THE PASIG RIVER 10.10.10

WATER STATIONS

All runners are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to reduce our solid wastes on October 10.

Water stations will be available every 1.5 kilometers on the race.

DO NOT LITTER

Runners should not throw their used cups in the street.

Throw your used cups and other trash on the designated garbage bins.

TRAFFIC ROUTE

The public are discouraged to go out of their homes if they will not be participating in the 10.10.10 Run For Pasig River. This will reduce the carbon emission of Metro Manila as well as reduce the traffic of people and vehicles on October 10.

For the convenience of other motorists, please avoid the following streets:

Roxas Blvd. - Southbound from corner Vito Cruz to corner EDSA
Stretch of Macapagal Ave., Diokno Ave. Seaside Blvd.
Reposo Ave corner Reposo to corner Makati Ave.,
Makati Ave., Paseo de Roxas, Ayala Ave.

FUN RUN, TOKEN & PRIZES

The 10.10.10 Run for Pasig River is a Fun run; families are welcome from all age groups.

Runners who are particular about their personal running time will have to time themselves.

The following token prizes shall be given to the top three (3) runners for all categories (2k, 5k, 10k):

1. First placer - P1,000 and medal
2. Second placer - P1,500 and medal
3. Third placer - P2,000 and medal

All finishers will be given a 10.10.10 Run for Pasig River Finishers Shirt made by the volunteers from Collectors, Legazpi.

For more information, visit www.10101runforpasigrives.com or call 303-1010, 305-1010, 307-1010.

Law students vow to help bar blast victims

By Nikko Dizon

THE ASSOCIATION of Law Students of the Philippines (ALSP) has been said to spearheading annual projects such as a sports fair to promote camaraderie among law students from east-side schools.

This time, however, it faces a more "gargantuan" task of coming together to help ensure that the dreams of their fellow students would still come true despite their shattering experience as victims of the explosion that marred the last day of the bar examinations on Sept. 24.

The ALSP aims to raise a million pesos to provide assistance to the victims, especially for their "long-term rehabilitation," Brian Austria, secretary of the ALSP's National Capital Region (NCR) chapter, told reporters.

"We want to help them still become fully productive ... and help them fulfill their ambition of being lawyers and see them take their oath as lawyers," Austria said.

The ALSP described as the student counterpart of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), saw at the incident law school in Bedford Center in Makati City yesterday after most family in dozens what the organization could do to help the victims of the blast, some of whom were law students.

As the sponsoring representatives from law schools from the University of the Philippines, Manuel L. Quezon University, dozens, De La Salle University (DLSU), FEU-Dr.Le Saffe University, San Sebastian, San Beda Alabang and Mendiola, Pamantasan University of the Philippines, Philippine Law School, and Ateneo Law School.

Austria described the group's current effort as a "gargantuan task."

He said the ALSP was looking into helping get prosthetics for victims such as San Sebastian law student Fatima Lanzol and another female law student who had lost their limbs.

However, these are very expensive and would require huge funding, Austria said.

The group, nonetheless, was undaunted, hoping that law students from all over the country would band together for the fund-raising activities.

Austria said that the ALSP has not yet discussed specific guidelines on the multifaceted "fundraising" for barriers on the bar day of the bar exams, saying it would be "more prudent" for the group to wait for the next steps to be taken by the Supreme Court regarding the bar exams.

Austria said that nonetheless, among the options being loosely discussed by law students, is to pick up barriers from the venue after the exams and bring them to their school's headquarters.

He also said that law students should be able to "police their ranks" in terms of following city ordinances during the "unfolding."

Austria admitted that law students brought liquor while waiting for the barriers to finish on the last day of the exam at De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, despite a liquor ban being implemented by the Manila City government.

At least four heads and injuries for the attack that could lead to the perpetrator were discussed during the first meeting of the investigating committee formed by the Supreme Court en bank into the Manila bar examinations last Friday.

"There are four to five leads to the motives that would help identify the possible suspects," Supreme Court administrator Raul Villanueva said in a press conference at the Supreme Court.

He added that the committee considered those "motives and/or leads ... relevant and important in so far as the possible solution of the crime or the incident is concerned."

Villanueva, who serves as the committee's secretary, said that names of individuals and organizations also cropped up during the meeting.

However, Villanueva declined to identify them so as not to hamper the investigation being carried out by the Manila Police District (MPD) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

In the committee's first meeting that lasted two and a half hours, Villanueva said many of the members "disclosed information that were useful and relevant in the investigation" and also watched a video footage taken by the Supreme Court public information office that captured the blast.

HELPING HANDS Iya Austria (far left), Miep Monteverde, Nicole Garina and Gino Austria of the Association of Law Students of the Philippines discuss a plan to raise funds for the long-term rehabilitation of the victims of the bar exam day explosion on Sept. 24.

Why Fil-Am tycoon flew 12 hours to RP, left same day

From page A1

president, respectively.

Much that been written about Ramon as a hero boy from Ipsig, Cagayan, who made the chips that are at the heart of every computer today, to the process he assumed a fortune that includes two executive jets, a multimillion-dollar home in leafy Atherton (which is also home to such high-tech titans as Steve Jobs), and control in the wine country in Sonoma.

He is known for his generous philanthropy which he pursues with his wife Maria Cariaga Ramirez. (Apart from running their own foundation, Ramirez had retired with the previous President, Ebata Macapagal-Arroyo, and the Department of Science and Technology.

Those told him there are ongoing programs right now that could be leveraged by Ramirez and, retiring as Engineering Research and Development for Technology (ERDT), which at its inception in 2007 was given a three-year P3.3 billion budget that runs out this year.

ERDT is a consortium of the Philippines' eight top engineering schools—University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, Mapua Institute of Technology, University of San Carlos, Central Luzon State University, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology.

Ramirez said Mr. Aquino made no promises but some hints got his message.

"I think he understands that the growth of the Philippines' economy would depend on how we take advantage of the global demand," Ramirez said, adding that the demand could be met only if the Philippines produced high-value-added, high-tech

HELLO AGAIN President Aquino meets up with philanthropist Dinodale Ramirez (second from left) at the Philippine Overseas Foundation's Sept. 23 gala at Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, California. Ramirez was a Malacañang visitor in May. The others with Mr. Aquino are (from left) Fernando Zobel de Ayala, San Francisco Consular Richard Blum and Foundation's vice chair Vicky Quin Miranda.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PCO

biology products, which in turn would only be conceived with properly educated and trained scientists and engineers.

Fervent passion

What is largely unknown about Ramirez is the fervent passion with which he pursues his ideas, whether it be looking for the next-generation semiconductors or challenging a community civic fund. (Some years back he told the San Francisco-based Manila Heritage Foundation that he would contribute a large amount of money but only if members of the community would match it. "They did," he said. "But it took them a while.")

On the day of our interview, the archer was as radiant as the early morning sun that bathed Ramirez's airy, glass-enclosed offices at the second floor of the Bella Vista front building, a grandiose mansion that is the headquarters of his high technology-run Ayala.

Tallwood, of which Ramirez is managing partner, is in the middle of it all, with $500 million to invest in "disruptive" ideas, products and technologies with market potential.

Its portfolio includes startups with patent-sounding positions, such as "enabling the phone to listen" or providing "low-powered integrated circuits for the next-generation mobile media devices."

Full throttle

At 61, Ramirez is still at full throttle. He optimized the time of the interview by having breakfast—two cups of an "energy" drink.

He is lean and sprightly, which his executive assistant, Stacey Holmes, attributed to "a rigorous workout regimen, including running."

And he "almost always has breakfast—enough lunch," which is "usually salmon, salad and soup," she added.

That Ramirez would travel from the United States for so brief a time with President Aquino was an indication of his deep interest and commitment. He could have flown in on his Bombardier, a long-range executive jet he uses to cherish among the global financial and high-tech capitals, but there was no available hangar at Clark International Airport (the last two times he had flown in, the jet had to park in Subic), so he had to make do with a smaller plane.

He also said that late students should be able to "police their ranks" in terms of following city ordinances during the "unfolding."

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Ventures capitalist

For all the money that he has invested in civic works, Ramirez is not a social entrepreneur.

"My gift giving is all about education, not entrepreneurship," he said. Those receiving funds would still see that benefit the individual immediately, such as remembrancing. The recipients are required to repay their loans. I don't do that," he said, adding:

"I am a venture capitalist ... That is the business from which hopefully I can make money to fund my philanthropy."

Ramirez said he required no commitment of any sort from the recipients of his scholarship or research grants.

He said he just hoped that his fellow Ilocanos would return home and "apply the knowledge they received." But putting "bandaids" on them, such as "investing in a factory" is not going to be the aim of the fellowship, a bold-y on of the question."

"There is no required commitment for them to stay in the Philippines," he added. "You can't force people to stay. All you can do is provide the environment for them to stay."

And that is what ERDT is all about.

What if, for some reason, Presidente Aquino fails to provide the funding it needs?

"We will find other ways to help the cause," Ramirez said. "When my wife and I decided to start our foundation, we were determined that nobody was going to get in the way of those good things."

"They are doing pure research and are working with the best engineering minds from all over the world," he said.

In fact, Ramirez's philanthropy is not limited to the Filipino community. At Berkeley he funded the Center of Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), to look at "big-scale (global) social issues" such as energy and health care.

And with his Orrin Shore a the Dean and Ruth Shore Director for Global Learning and Outreach from Berkeley Engineering (or Globe), which "reaches out to and collaborates with engineering colleges and universities all over the world."

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Work with the best

Ramirez got his degree from Mapua in the time when it was the country's premier engineering school.

He said that was why he went there, and not to UP, he recalled that his batch (1966) ranked the top 10 slots of the board examsit kept for the 1970s, which was taken by a 10 graduates.

But UP has since caught up and Ramirez has no doubt it is molding the best engineering minds in the Philippines today.

He said he wanted to work only with the best, and that he would continue to put money where his mouth was.

Today, the UP engineering professors are Ramirez fellows at UC Berkeley, where the man chairs the College of Engineering Advisory Board and is a member of the Chancellor's Executive Advisory Council.

To teacher, super thanks for making *the* difference in my life

From page A1

The education department is also encouraging everyone to say a short prayer for teachers at 10:05 in the morning of Tuesday, which is the exact hour that DepEd will be leading prayer rites at its central office.

The prayer reads: "Look up on our teachers with love. Grant them perseverance to nurture our super minds and never give up on us who fell behind."

My Teacher, My Hero

As part of the DepEd's "My Teacher, My Hero" campaign, the Oct. 5 event is the culminator of a month-long commemoration of Teachers' Month, with activities honoring almost 536,000 public elementary and high school teachers nationwide.

Health initiative

Luistro hopes the "Thank you, Teacher" day will spread nationwide schools.

"I don't want Teachers' Day to just be celebrated in schools. I am asking those outside of the schools to celebrate. That's your assignment," said Luistro, who was interviewed on the radio show of a World Bank forum early yesterday.

On Wednesday, the DepEd signed an agreement with the Philippine Heart Association and Bayer Phil. for an initiative aimed at curbing the incidences of hypertension among teachers through the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and other preventive measures.

"The wellness and benefits of our employees, particularly our teachers, take paramount priority in the department," Briones said.

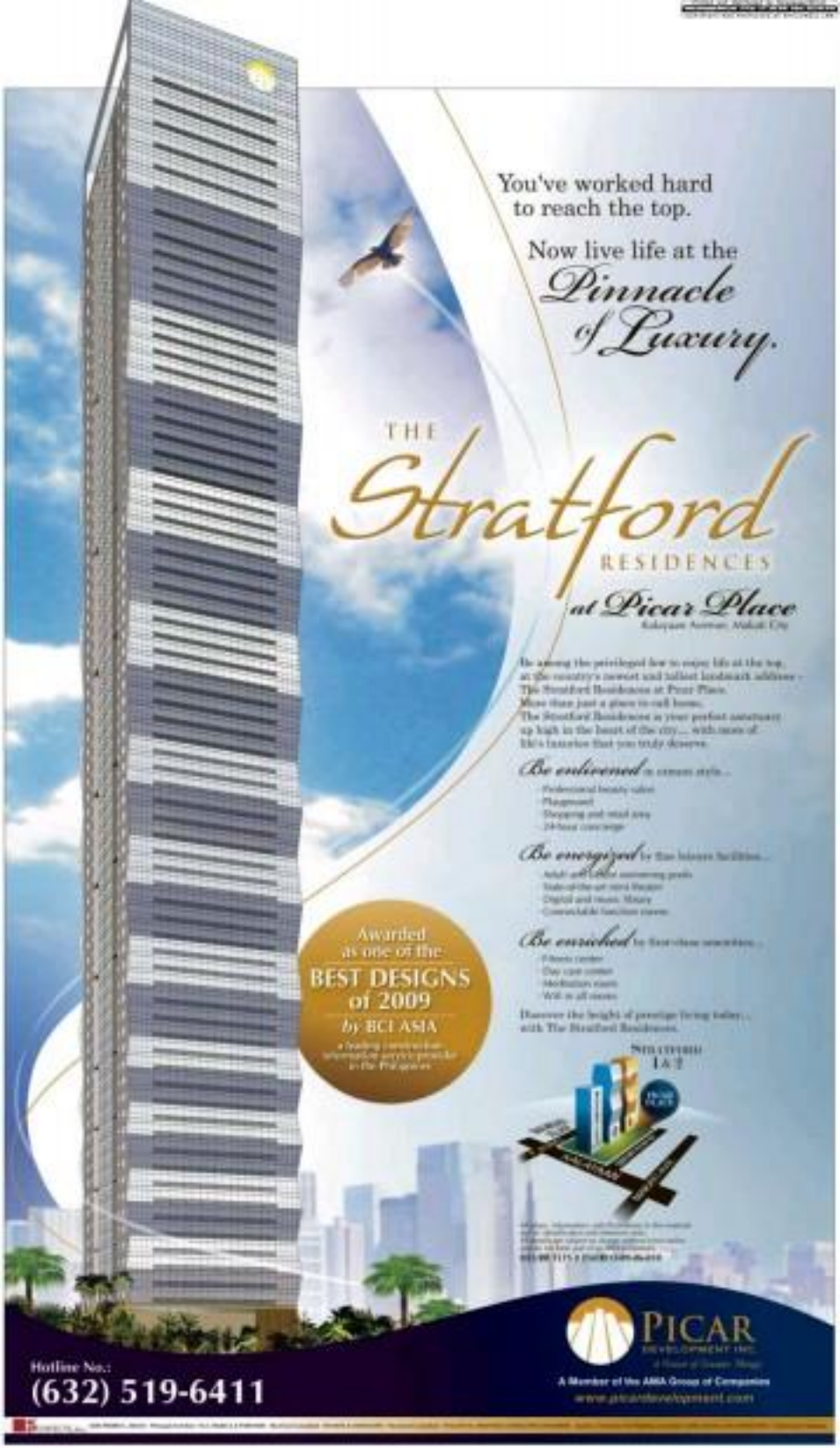
She also chose the people how we value our teachers. Your government wants to provide our dear teachers the benefits they very well deserve," Luistro said in an earlier statement.

As education's foot soldiers, teachers are the backbone of a public school system that has struggled for a long time with shortages of classrooms, teaching materials and other resources.

Poorly paid

Often, it is left to the creativity and resourcefulness of the poorly paid public schoolteacher to search through their personal pockets.

Some teachers have complained that they have yet to receive their honorariums for their summer teaching load, said Benilda Deliscupio, spokesperson of Teachers' Dignity Coalition.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Across the NATION

RP war on terror toll on US: 11 GIs

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The US military lost a total of 11 soldiers since joining the antiterror campaign in Mindanao in 2002, US and Philippine military officials had confirmed Friday.

The Philippine military has so far lost 372 men in the campaign that also led to the fall of high-profile leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and operatives of the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian arm of the international terror network Al-Qaida.

But Lt. Col. Tony Sudal, public affairs officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines, clarified that the US soldiers were not killed in actual combat operations.

He said in 2002, seven US military personnel died in a Chinook helicopter crash in Zamboanga in Datangguan City while transporting equipment from Basilan.

Two US soldiers died in October 2002 during an explosion in Barangay Mahayahay here, while two more died in another explosion in Dalahican, Iloilo, last year.

On Friday, US and Filipino soldiers bancoed their bikes comrades during a memorial service for "Operation Enduring Freedom."

"These soldiers had committed to bringing peace and development," Lt. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, Western Mindanao Command chief, said.

He said there is consolation, though, in their losses.

"They have been part of the success that we have gained today in combating terrorism," he said.

"These fallen soldiers dedicated their lives to make our country free from terror," Dolorfino added.

However, he admitted that despite the deaths of top Abu Sayyaf leaders, the battle against terror continues.

Based on latest military information, a member of Abu Sayyaf faction continues to operate in Sulu and Basilan.

The group was said to be collecting ransom money from businessmen and politicians in Sulu.

SC asked not to open cityhood case anew

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Supreme Court's reassurance in upholding the rule of law will be doubted if it reopens the case of 16 towns whose cityhood laws were declared unconstitutional in 2008 and to regain, the president of the League of Cities of the Philippines said.

"It's the trust of the people on the high court that is to make sure. They expect the Supreme Court to defend the rule of law," City of San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, LCP president, said by telephone on Saturday.

He hoped the statement after lawyer Rodrigo Mendoza filed a motion for reconsideration on behalf of the 16 towns.

In a separate statement, Rodriguez said the LCP did "not want to destroy the precedents set in the rule of law."

"It is the duty of the court to put a period to this case, a case finality. We do not want to be part of the problems within the court, but a part of the solution," he said.

LEAGUE of City of the Philippines officials (from left) Hermael Brogada, Oscar Rodriguez, LCP president, and Lawyers Cruz-Javier Ces. n.

The Supreme Court declared the cityhood laws unconstitutional on Nov. 28, 2008. The decision was reversed after the issuance of an entry of judgment in June 2009. However, the court changed its decision when it affirmed the cityhood laws on Dec. 29, 2009.

While the court, on May 25 last year, lowered the filing of pleadings or motions for reconsideration on the case, the LCP pursued the filing of a motion in January this year. The Supreme Court, on Aug. 24, nullified the cityhood laws of the 16 towns.

The court declared as unconstitutional the cityhood laws of Bayugan (Layas), Bago (Cebu), Cabadbaran (Dinagat), Tagbilaran (Bohol), Lamitan (Basilan), Borongan (Samar), Siayakan (Quezon), Tabuk (Kalinga), Bayugan (Agusan del Sur), Bislig (Surigao Sur), Mati (Davao Oriental), Gubat, Agdo (Negros Oriental), Cabadbaran (Agusan del Norte), El Salvador (Misamis Oriental), Cavinti (Laguna) and Naga (Cebu).

Rodriguez, a lawyer, called the nullification a "victory of the rule of law."

Alangilan City Mayor Herbert Bautista, LCP secretary general, said the enactment of the 2011 budgets for the country's 122 cities is hampered by the case.

"We ask the Supreme Court to end the case with finality so we can finalize our budgets for 2011," he said.

In the LCP statement, Tuguegarao City Mayor Celestia Marcelino said his city would not earmark programs and projects for the people due to what he called "never-ending" appeal of the 16 towns.

Cadiz City Mayor Salvador Escalante, LCP chair, said the Supreme Court "must no longer entertain any motions."

The enactor of cities, he said, must "follow the criteria [set] under the Local Government Code." Tonette Orejas, Inquirer General Luzon

RESIDENTS of Barangay Cilo in Bay, Laguna, work to repair the village's irrigation canals on Friday. MARLON DAVID/INQUIRER.NET PHOTO

Food-for-work program helps in town recovery

BAY, LAGUNA—A food-for-work program is helping residents make multi-purpose and sweeping infrastructure in this town destroyed by a string of storms last year.

Instead of cash, residents tapped for work on repair of damaged infrastructure and construction of new ones get 10 kilograms of rice.

The food-for-work program was put together by the municipal government, Department of Social Welfare and Development and World Food Program (WFP).

Resources Ortega, municipal social work and development officer, said residents are given work such as dredging drainages, lining pipes and preparing trees for tree planting.

"You could just imagine how devastated Bay was after three storms," Ortega said.

She said 4,000 families lost livelihood and suffered losses. At least 314 families are still living in a relocation site in Barangay Tagumpay.

Bay, dependent on agriculture, also lost hectares of rice lands to floods. She said the storms took a while to restore because irrigation canals were already clogged artificially.

"We do not want a repeat of what happened [and] we're doing this to prevent that," she said.

WFP under the United Nations, donated 9,931 sacks of rice to Bay for the first phase of its food-for-work project in July.

Ortega said 12,311 residents already benefited from the daily community work in different sites in 15 villages here.

Barangay Putatan Tulalian welcomed the program, saying less bother, since is currently jobless, "to at least starting one of his time productively by sweeping the streets every morning and cleaning orchard."

"It's a big savings for us that we do not have to spend for rice anymore," said Angel Carandang, 33, who works discharging a cascia fine (sand) in Dila.

"They are not forced to work. They could opt to work just for half of the day and earn 5 kg of rice," said Ronaga.

She said they also gave an orientation on disaster preparedness for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and pregnant women.

One of the indications of the massive destruction that the town's farms suffered, said Ortega, was the declining number of farmers availing farm-related loans for use in preparing their lands for the planting season.

Under the program adopted by Bay, aside from getting 10 kg of rice for work, residents are entitled to P200 per day starting this month until November.

Ortega said the 4WP approved is P75,000 cash donation to line and give another 3,187 sacks of rice.

The component of the program that pays cash to workers would run until November in the villages of Dayap, Tranca, San Isidro and Maitim. Marvine Cleen, Inquirer Southern Luzon

New Facebook page built vs erring cops

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—Crime reporting goes interactive as the Laguna police built a Facebook page where citizens can upload amateur video of crimes or complaints against law enforcement persons in authority.

It was also the Laguna police that was first to tap the popular social networking site in August when it began posting online the list of the province's most wanted criminals.

"This will provide a window for people to make their complaints known," said Senior Insp. Gilbert Cruz, Laguna police chief.

The Facebook page, sbsmdo.com, may now be accessed after its formal launch on Thursday.

But Cruz was quick to note that the page would exist only as a reference or video repository for or by citizens outside Laguna.

"We will just collect them and forward them to the concerned police offices," he said.

Cruz cited for instance the footage taken from a cell phone camera showing a naked man, believed to be a crime suspect, being tortured by policemen.

Later, Laguna Senior Insp. Joselito Hinoguing of the Manila Police District was supposed to be the police officer on the video.

Cruz said the video and photos could be used as primary evidence to prompt a police investigation or an entrapment operation.

With over 500 million active Facebook users worldwide, "no believe this will speed up crime busting," Cruz said. Marvine Cleen, Inquirer Southern Luzon

SBMA exec probed for conflict of interest

SUBIC FREEPORT—An official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is being investigated for providing legal services to employees of a subsidiary firm, which could qualify as a conflict of interest.

But a bigger problem for lawyer Sandy Escolango, SBMA deputy administrator for legal affairs, is a charge made by reconciled workers of the Freeport Services Corp. (FSC) that they have not received their separation pay, which has been placed under their lawyer's custody.

Escolango's law firm allegedly linked to recent P4.2 million under a compromise deal between the FSC and its 380 laid-off workers. The workers sued the firm at the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC).

Sought for comment, Escolango said: "There's no conflict of interest there."

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said the case against Escolango has been referred to the disciplinary action committee. "Escolango has a right to due process and we want to give him the opportunity to answer the charges against him," Arreza said.

The FSC has been a losing venture for SBMA and has been consulting workers, the bosses learned.

The firm was formed in 1993 to operate beach resorts, gasoline stations and stores, and 5 percent of its profits are automatically remitted to the SBMA.

But the bailout of NLRC, the FSC released P4.2 million to Israel Miguez, an employee in Escolango's law office in Olongapo City, according to sources. Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

'Escolango has a right to due process and we want to give him the opportunity to answer...'

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Differently abled draw inspiration from project

By Joffrey M. Tupas
Sun Promissory Agusan del Sur

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, Roland Ordoña's world stopped when he received the news that he could no longer walk.

Then, he had a fever that persisted for a week; then he could no longer move his legs. His doctor later told him his nervous system has been impaired, rendering him paraplegic.

Roland was 28, a thriving miner enjoying the perks of a yuppie with so many options. He was able to work in the government and has chose to teach mathematics at Ubix College in San Francisco town in Agusan del Sur, where he was also a basketball coach.

"I thought it was the end of my life. But it's not difficult for me to accept my fate, it was even more difficult to see my wife looking at me with pity, telling her about my fate was somewhat myself ... living me this...at that time, we were still building a family," he said.

He was bedridden, his wife doing everything for his needs—toilet and daily maintenance. It helped, he said, that friends were there to help.

Roland's body has since become manageable with the wheelchair.

As about that time, in another part of town called Barangay Bingcay, was Modesto Tandoy Jr., a jobless yuppie patient. If he was not tending the carabao, the high school graduate was practically doing nothing.

"That was the time when dreaming and hoping were almost impossible to do," Tandoy said.

Leading figures

Fast forward to today, Ordoña and Tandoy are the most prominent figures behind the San Francisco Association of Differently-abled Persons Multipurpose Cooperative (Sanfra-Ndap MPC).

They are just two of the nine people with disability—from the original 15—who stuck it out with the belief that they will make a difference for themselves and their families.

Ordoña was one of those who insisted in organizing the Differently-abled in San Francisco. He said he wanted to break the stereotype that they are unproductive, if not totally useless.

Self-help

"I know that we can do something to better our lives. At that time, my own tragedy was redundantly fresh, but I know in my heart that we must do something and help ourselves or no one will help us," said Ordoña, now the chair and general manager of the cooperative based in Sitio Tandog, Barangay Pias-an.

"At that time, I was very optimistic that perhaps I was able to convince others to start thinking and looking at things in a good way," he said.

The eight have convinced people like Tandoy and the other original members to start dreaming again.

With 45 members and 25 employees, five of them women, the cooperative produces quality furniture made of gmelina, supplying desks and armchairs to public schools in Mindanao and the Visayas.

Getting these supplies from holders of permits to operate a Community-based Forest Management Agreement, the group makes P12-million worth of deals every year from various projects.

Business sense

Ordoña knows his business as well. "An armchair is 25 board feet of wood. We need 180,000 board feet yearly to hit the P12 million target. A 30-wheeler truck contains 30 cubic meters of wood. So we need 24 truckloads yearly," he said.

In August, the group was commissioned by the provincial government to produce 2,000 armchairs for elementary pupils. Those will be made from more than 3,000 board feet of logs that were recently confiscated by the provincial government.

Practically starting from scratch in 1999, the cooperative now has P13 million in assets. "In 1999, we were really nothing," Ordoña said.

Ordoña said he decided not to allow his condition cripple and define his dreams for his family. And while he was in the process of revamping his—his movement limited only around the bed—he turned by sketching houses for his friends.

"I thought that it was not yet the end. It was not yet over. Then the idea came to me later to organize people like me who desire to have a better life but faced by lack of opportunity and support," he said.

Funding sources

The group approached several government agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the municipal government of San Francisco.

"We asked for help, for financial assistance. We got mixed responses. Some appreciated our eagerness and wishes but there were those who doubted us. Some were really supportive, too. Maybe they thought that what we were thinking was impossible," he said.

"But we did not only want financial support but also moral push," he added.

The Department of Labor and Employment gave the group P500,000 for start-up. Another P50,000 came from the municipality. They used the money to build their first center in Alegria.

"They must have seen our hope...the reason why we were able to convince them," he said.

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OPINION

Lawless

EDITORIAL

PERHAPS THE most horrible aspect of the bar exams' bombing is not just the sheer number of casualties, but how the very act of bombing goes so far against the whole point of the exams.

It was Sept. 26, a Sunday, but not a day of rest for the many hopefuls who dreamed of working as lawyers, those who would interpret and protect the law. By one occasion, in one setting, all those law students from incredibly diverse social and economic backgrounds came together with a singular goal in mind: to battle the examinations in order to become lawyers. They gathered there on that day, the ending of so many days spent studying in the library. It was the final day of the bar exams at De La Salle University, a long-awaited moment for them, and all those annoyances to be never ready to let their hair down and celebrate.

Then came the big, bad bang.

There was blood, there was confusion, there were rumors. All of a sudden, those who believed that order is a prerequisite for a proper society were thrust into a state of chaos that turned everything it touched.

The investigators and authorities, those now charged with sifting the truth from the ashes and bloodstains, swooped on the scene, asking questions. When our ears stopped ringing and took stock of the situation, the names of wounded streamed on: 64. Then, we were horrified by the severity of the bombing's damage, as one girl lost both her legs. That girl, Reissa Laurel, spoke of not losing hope, of continuing on her chosen path of becoming a lawyer. She talked of staying true to what she had worked towards. Despite the catastrophic injuries she suffered, Laurel did not let the explosion deter her from the vocation she had chosen.

Amid Laurel's words of hope came the fragments of truth the authorities unearthed. Contrary to earlier suggestion that it might have been an improvised explosive device such as a pillbox, it was a grenade lobbed at a throng of celebrating law students. Laurel herself was closest to the blast, explaining the severity of her injuries.

We strained to believe it. Someone had come on the school on this chosen day and brought a military-grade explosive, an actual weapon of war delivered to a crowd of civilians caught in the midst of revelry. Who would do this? we asked. And why? It was simply unthinkable. When the investigators began talking about the grenade attack being the result of a fraternity war, we still could not believe. We had hinted of intervention and the unwinding by outsiders and endless ranks between those separated only by a few Greek letters.

But this was the bar exams, an event that, if anything, fosters the hope of the law. It is a rite of passage for those who hold thinking and wisdom above all else. It was the very embodiment of a society perpetuated by its sense of order, man finding strength in systems and beliefs.

The attack defied all that, made a mockery of everything that day stood for. Despite our confusion and shock and grief, we realized the gravity of this crime and demanded justice for those who sought to stand for the just. It was the ultimate act of removing law from our society, by stepping it from those who seek to wield it correctly.

In visiting the victims, President Aquino left strong words that resonated with our outrage: "I consider this a heinous crime because many of the victims were women and students preparing for their future as productive citizens of our country. Society bears an added responsibility for caring for women and the youth." And he issued a stern warning: "To those who are guilty: The full resources of the state are being unleashed against you. Surrender. Do not add to the troubles you are now facing. You will not escape the consequences of your actions."

With the National Bureau of Investigation engaging in its own parallel probe along with the ongoing Manila Police District's search for clues, the Supreme Court has taken the unprecedented step of forming its own special committee to study the blast and find the guilty parties. After all, who else will find justice for their brethren?

All these efforts dovetail seamlessly into a unified search for the truth and the finding of justice for those who were yearning to dispense justice. Let the probes dig deep. Let the leads be unencumbered. Let no stone not be turned by indifference or forgetfulness. We may not know how many perpetrators there are, or why they did it. But we do have one quantity for sure: 64 wounded. It is for those that we continue. It is for the 64 that we seek the single truth behind the events of Sept. 26. That, in the end, is the only mathematical equation that makes sense after the senseless grenade attack. Bring the law back.

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Modernity's pains

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

A SPIT of confusion and recrimination has attended the discussion of social-reform issues in our country. Some of it is predictable, but a great deal of it constitutes what we may call the pains of modernity. Recent events—the controversial remarks of Bishop Nereo Odchimar, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), and the stunning six-percent jacket ripped by the reproductive health activist Carlos Celdran during a Mass at the altar of the Manila Cathedral—foreground once again the evolving terms of the relationships of Church and State.

I wish to contribute a sociological perspective to this ongoing debate. But, in the spirit of full disclosure, let me mention that I have a first brother of mine of whom I'm very proud, Pablo Virgilio S. David, a biblical scholar, is an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga. He is also a member, as far as I know, of the pro-RH faction of the CBCP. While I have had the occasion even to kid him in previous columns, I think it is important to bring out the fact of our affinity here because in our society people tend to judge you not on what you say but on who your relatives are. Let me assure you that I am not writing this out of having a bishop for a brother but on treating on what I say as a sociologist.

The term "modernity" has been used in a variety of ways. I use it here to refer specifically to the differentiation of communications, of roles and institutions, according to their function. Functional differentiation is an achievement of modern society. Traditional societies tend to be differentiated along segmental and hierarchical lines, rather than along functional lines. That, traditional society would ask which family or tribe or religious you belong to in order to arrive at a determination of who you are, while modern society would be content to simply ask what you do.

Modern society recognizes the plurality of standpoints from which one may view an issue like reincorporation. The political perspective frames it in relation to population planning. The economic perspective sees it as a strategic component of the war against mass poverty. The religious perspective, on the other hand, frames the question primarily in moral terms, i.e., as a matter of conscience. The legal perspective gives to the family the option to use a wide range of available forms of preventing conception, even as it explicitly frowns upon all forms of abortion. The family perspective might see contraception in relation to the responsible exercise of parenthood, while the medical profession views it as an aspect of reproductive health.

In modern society, none of these perspectives can claim an overarching authority beyond its own domain. Not the Church, not the State, not even medicine or ethics. In contrast, traditional society gave to the churches a dominant voice on family planning issues, in full recognition of their role as agents of a general moral code. Functional differentiation changed all this by assigning to the family the sole prerogative to make decisions concerning family size and methods for preventing conception.

But the process is far from complete in our society. We are in the middle of a wrenching transition to modernity. Our formally different, moral institutional universes are still struggling to subordinate their autonomy to a country that remains very much under the spell of a religious culture. This is the principal source of modernity's pains.

The Church cannot be faulted for pressuring its stand on every conjunction issue. What is its mission to evangelize the world and to spiritualize every aspect of human activity. It does so in full awareness that it is fighting a rearguard battle to preserve its relevance in an increasingly secular world. But even as the Church tirelessly communicates the gift of a faith-based life, it does so, knowing that it can no longer command belief through the threat of eternal damnation. Then, threatening a flood of sons with excommunication, because the latter intends to distribute contraceptives to poor families that ask for them, has to be the simplest and silliest thing any church can do in the modern world. I am glad that Bishop Odchimar quickly clarified his remarks and denied having issued such a threat.

Modernity is a tricky situation. It confers autonomy on institutional systems, but exacts accountability as a price. The whole world is your arena, but you have to take care not to overstep the unwritten bounds of your authority. The ultimate penalty is losing your credibility and authority within your own realm.

Modern social systems preserve their authority and autonomy through self-restraint and self-regulation. This has been a particular by-difficult problem for the Catholic Church in its efforts to reform—modifying at what it is accustomed to do in its relationship to politics. This is no one just because it is hard to a long tradition of ecclesiastical supremacy. It is because its intervention in the nation's politics continues to be sought during elections by politicians and, in moments of political crisis, by citizens' movements themselves.

If we want to limit the Church's intervention in governments, the way to achieve this is not by shutting up the Church, but by strengthening the political maturity (capacity for autonomous decision-making. The requires not just discouraging the improper practice of seeking the endorsement of religious leaders during elections, but also regulating the unmentioned political contributions from the business sector.

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public.live@gmail.com

Unworthy servants

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ACCORDING TO a study, it is not the data or the asset but the hunt of the latest donated gig that increases one's blood pressure. Why? Well, wouldn't your blood pressure rise if your salary [illegible] of hard-earned P21,000 which they found in an RDF medicine Independent Staff Fathers, Jessica Collantes, Jerry Mangaoang and Gemma Ramos could have divided the loot among themselves, but they decided to look for the rightful, and perhaps, in their own words, needful claimant of the money. They traveled two hours to the radio station after their work, hungry and tired, but happy they said, "to do what is right and what is righteous." One of them said, "I cannot sleep in peace tonight if I do not give back the money to the owner."

Pedro Calungsod beatified Pinoy God for honest and simple servants!

• • •

Tomorrow is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. His life is a beautiful story of faith that was lived dynamically from which we learn because of his realization of true servanthood. Let us all pray for conversion, or a paradigm shift from selfishness to love, from worldliness to Godliness, from pride to humility, and from greed to repentance.

• • •

Oct. 2 was the Feast of the Guardian Angels. If we believe that we need help, then, by all means, let us get all the help we need, and invite angels, saints and martyrs, including our Blessed Mother, to help us in our journey on this earth, to help us in our mission and in mankind's final destination.

• • •

This government, with all its honesty and goodwill, must pray. "Increase our faith in God, and in people!" It must go beyond its comfort zones and comfort groups and realize that it must work not only with those it is comfortable with, but also with those who are competent, for the sake of a nation that needs so much redemption and, yes, sanctification.

• • •

"Increase our faith in each other!" This too should be our prayer. May we learn to trust and believe more in people's goodness and good will. May we see allies rather than foes, and compatriots rather than competitors. So, may we see ourselves the very God sees us, fallen and weak, yes, but still created and loved.

• • •

Speaking of increasing, I received another year-end [illegible] I still need expenses in my gratitude to the Lord for His love and mercy, and for allowing me to be the missionary extraordinaire that I am. I desire to serve Him with each dime in connection to serve Him and His people. I have no personal agenda, except His agenda in my life. Money, power, position, fame are no big deal anymore. The big deal is living well, loving much and going to Heaven, somehow!

• • •

At the end of our lives, may we all come before our God with our hands burned and say, "Mission accomplished, Lord. I have done my best, and I have come to ask for your mercy for me, your unworthy servant." Amen.

• • •

October is the Month of the Rosary and the Missions. My invite you to join us on Oct. 13 for a Marian celebration at the Shrine of the Divine Word, Christ the King Mission Seminary, EDSA, Quezon City. Then we will have a continuous praying of the rosary starting at 12 noon, to be followed by a program and procession, culminating in a 6 p.m. Mass to be celebrated by Bro. Arturo Bastes, SVD, DD, Bishop of Sorsogon.

We also invite you to pray for all mission-aries and to be one with them through the Rosary Prayer of "The Mysteries of the Mission." Booklets of this prayer are available at the SVD Mission Office, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., QC. For more details, call 7217407.

• • •

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, I am your unworthy servant. I trust in your mercy and in your love. Amen.

Sanctity of life and of marriage

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

IF THERE is one issue in which the Iglesia ni Cristo Church is solidly united, and in which all our Catholic bishops are unanimous in upholding and defending, it is the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage, which together complement the sanctity of the family. This explains why the Church passionately opposes the Reproductive Health bill and the divorce bill pending in Congress, and why it is entirely sensitive to President Benigno Aquino's pronouncement on these sanctities.

Sanctity of life. The basic Catholic theological tenet is the sanctity of life as formulated in Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life), an encyclical of Pope Paul VI (July 25, 1968) condemning abortion and prohibiting artificial contraception. In his message celebrating the 40th anniversary of Humanae Vitae in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI admitted that this teaching has become controversial in light of present scientific and economic realities but insisted that it was a truth unchangeable, saying, "What was true yesterday is still true today."

To be sure, our 1987 Constitution outlines elaborate "balancing" between "life" and "choice." It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception." Because unborn under the Penal Code had already criminalized infanticide (killing of an infant less than three days old) and abortion (killing of a fetus in the uterus or its expulsion from the uterus), the issue is when life begins.

Other countries are still debating the beginning of life to determine when a "killing" can be deemed an abortion. Does life begin at the union of the egg and the sperm? Or is it merely when the fetus is capable of independent life outside the womb? (It is it only at the viability of the fetus? Artificial cord as birth? In contrast, our Constitution settled that issue, saying that the unborn shall be protected "from conception", that is, from the fertilization of the human egg by the human sperm.

The burning issue now is what to do with "choice." Is no longer the beginning of life at conception, but may further than...the prevention by any artificial means of the union of the egg and the sperm.

Thus, the Church prohibits the use of medicines, devices and procedures that artificially stop the fertilized human sperm-ovum from reaching the human egg, including condoms, IUDs, diaphragms, ligation, vasectomy and "pills."

Sanctity of marriage. "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder." Upon this oft-quoted Biblical command rests the Catholic dogma of marital indissolubility. Thus, for the Church, as human institution, including the state, can dissolve a valid marriage. Our Civil Code and, later, our 1988 Family Code echo this inviolability by defining marriage as a "permanent union" and as "inviolable social institution."

Nonetheless, the Church recognizes the nullity of a Catholic marriage when one or both partners suffered from "psychological incapacity" at its inception. Canon 1095 states: "Those who are unable to assume the essential obligations of a marriage due to causes of a psychological nature [are] incapable of contracting marriage."

The Church requires that the psychological incapacity must be (1) grave, (2) incurable and (3) antecedent, that is, it must have existed at the time of the marriage, and was not acquired only after it had been celebrated. A party who is psychologically incapacitated at the time the vow was uttered does not contract a valid marriage from the very beginning.

Canon 1095 was substantially adopted as Art. 36 of our Family Code, thus: "A marriage contracted by any party who, at the time of the celebration, was psychologically incapacitated to comply with the essential obligations of marriage, shall likewise be void even if such incapacity becomes manifest only after its solemnization."

The early Supreme Court decisions beginning with Santos vs Court of Appeals (Jan. 4, 1995, per Justice Jose C. Vitug) closely hued to the three Canon requirements. Republic vs Molina (Feb. 13, 1997, which I penned), instituted eight guidelines to assist parties in evading psychological incapacity. However, later jurisprudence (discussed in my column on Feb. 21) tended to carry from these early decisions and became "more liberal."

Before leaving to retire, the Supreme Court's latest decision (Antonio vs Reyes, Mar. 10, 2010, per Justice Arturo D. Brion) deftly clarified that the early jurisprudence (Santos and Molina) have not been abandoned and are still good case law.

Rankling the Church is the divorce bill of Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, which "dissolves the marital incapacity" (along with "de facto" separation for five years, irreconcilable differences, etc.) as a ground. Theologically untenable is the bill's proposal that psychological incapacity need not be "grave" or "incurable" or that the vice of marriage, thereby infringing its inviolability.

In sum, I hope P-Noy and the Church can avoid a grisly confrontation. After all, Benedict XVI—in his address before the British Parliament (on Sept. 21)—advocated "ongoing dialogue" between "the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief."

* * *

New SC official. Congratulations to Sarijaela Inguema Veloz for having been named the new clerk of Court of the Supreme Court vice Atty. Enrique D. Villanueva. Atty. Veloz personifies the ideal court employee—discreet, competent, courteous, loyal and hard working. Although she carries the modest title of "clerk," she enjoys the rank of a Court of Appeals justice and performs the work of a general manager.

* * *

Comments are welcome at thefilipinejurist@gmail.com and lex@lawmail.com

When the devil eats doughnuts

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

IT IS morally evil, says the archbishop. It enslaves. It deprives. It rarely pays back.

In 1880, the first sweepstakes were called lotteries. The Spanish government condoned it. The relief loss lived much money out of it, taking home more than six grand in the lopsided draw of 1902 right under the noses of Spanish friars.

"Gambling is a game of chance," says retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz from his book "Gambling in the Republic." "It is a game of money for money, irrespective of the outcome. The commodity contested and is money. The payout, gross is money. The good received is money."

The only exception the archbishop has made in moral sense the national sweepstakes, run by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the offspring of Rizal's lupitan stakes. Archbishop Cruz was ordained in 1950, the sweepstakes was a "totally laudable social endeavor."

"Practically all those who then bought sweepstake tickets did so in order to help the poor and the sick—not really for the purpose of winning which was then so remote a possibility, and so, for the most part, no easy thing to acquire. And the joy of winning the sweepstakes was pure and delightful precisely because such was not the least expected, much less ardently pursued."

He claims it was the change from sweepstakes to lottery and "sporting" that the archbishop's problem brought about by gambling: the tyrant clarity of the DOH.

To understand the archbishop's crusade demands an understanding of what he considers acceptable and unacceptable. The logic between sweepstakes and lottery is the same. Both are games of chance. The commodity considered is money. The payment given is money. The good received is money. Whether online or manual, Super, Mega, or Grand Lotto 6/49, the possibility of winning is still winless. The joy of winning is still unexpected and thus presumably delightful, and the prize money that are still the mandated benefactories of the government agency.

The difference between the archbishop's sweepstakes, that "truly laudable social endeavor," and the PCSO's modern lottery may exist, but perhaps only in the archbishop's mind. Both are games of chance. Both are "sporting." And both are equally dependent on the gullibility of the public, the willingness of suckers to buy tickets the same way they can toss out numbers in a million.

Cruz has consistently announced his disapproval of all forms of gambling, both legal and illegal. He brings with his intention the Holy Bible, the Church's Canon Law, and numerous all supporters for their weakness. He has long campaigned for the closure of Pagcor.

The Church supports Cruz's anti-gambling stance, has made it the point of pastoral letters, and even posted a copy of his book on the official website.

In 2000, Pagcor chief Alex Yñiguez revealed that 68 Church organizations had accepted donations amassed from gambling profits. Within a single two-year period, a total of P581 million in contributions from Pagcor was received in the name of the Catholic Church. Of that amount, at least P1.25 million, P30 million was donated to the Archdiocese of Cebu for the beatification of Blessed Pedro Calungsod. Many other Church groups had petitioned for aid and were awarded by Pagcor.

There were accusations of hypocrisy against the Church. Many admitted they were indeed receiving the Pagcor donations.

Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, spokesperson and assistant secretary general of the CBCP defended the hierarchy: "It was the whole Church that has a part in the [Pagcor] profits."

In a headline-grabbing statement, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin said that the Church had long made a practice of accepting what he called "dirty money" as a form of restitution for the moral wrongs of those who had committed the offenses. The Church, he said, "can't afford to spend good, pure money. The proceeds are a different matter. "If Satan appears to me and gives me money, I will accept the money and spend it all for the poor."

In the midst of the controversy, Dra. Soledad Cayetano, OCP president and Social Welfare Undersecretary, angered against Pagcor before Philippine media. "I can feel the bishops' doughnuts that the OCP itself, such was its president nor the secretariat, has received or asked for a centavo from Pagcor."

Admitted that an official CBCP committee had itself been petitioned for aid by Pagcor during the previous year, Cayetano claimed all knowledge. "Frankly, I was not told. The secretariat was not told, the conference was not told. It is only now that we come to know of it ourselves."

There is no word if CBCP has stood by its claim. Pagcor's grants and perhaps even accepting donations from gambling sources. In 2008, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales announced there was nothing wrong with accepting funds from the PCSO. At the time, the PCSO was already turning 72 of its profits to the Department of Health (DOH) in Iofia. At the same year, Bishop Broderick Pabillo admitted his diocese was receiving donations from the PCSO. "As long as they are legitimate agencies of the government, they can help anybody," he said.

The Church's position on gambling is a shifting creature, not least Cruz's personal intolerance as a crusader. From outright rejection to discretion, a claim to morality is irreversible, in truths come from God himself. And yet in this issue, as with many other moral controversies, the Church is unable to give morality to the people. It can only give them a choice. A distinction should never be separate from moral intolerance, and yet promises the use of rational family planning, itself a means to prevent reproduction. It bans divorce, yet issues a blind eye to the outrageous lies couples are forced to name to get a marriage annulled in the courts.

It is one more reason that government rationality, not self-proclaimed moral activism, should be at the helm of social issues. The gambling issue has demonstrated a Church willing to profit from what it deems fundamental immorality, just as long as the money is used for the poor. It is the same as government legalizes state-sponsored prostitution and abortion, there is no reason to believe the Church will not happily pocket donations from the government to repair its cathedrals and pay for its healing programs. According to calculations, so long as gambling profits can be used for the poor, there is no harm done. "If you are going to pocket it, that's bad."

Last month, Cruz announced he is willing to risk his life in the holy war against illegal gambling, in senatorial investigations in aid of legislation on the illegal numbers game, Cruz lambasted the "protectors" of illegal gambling and jueteng czarists. He named the governors of Pampanga and Pangasinan. He faced the undersecretary of interior. He pointed a finger at the President's first cousin. Then he announced that at least eight Catholic dioceses in Luzon and the Visayas were accepting money from jueteng operations as donations.

Asked to reveal the names of the guilty Cases, head of the People's Crusade against Jueteng, crusader against the corrupt, God's avenger against the greedy, whose bravest is truth to power, talked before the brotherhood of the holy, and refused to identify any of the bishops priests.

"They are known to me," he said.

There lies the difference between the Church and him. The state is held accountable. The Church can tell you to go to hell.

Guy Sorman, a French philosopher and economist, is the author of "Economics Does Not Lie."

Peftok stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HEROES—VETERANS of the 50-day siege of Philippine Republicanary Force in Baras joke that they are veterans because they survived the siege, not because of its "heroic size" when the situation became dire. Despite the jokes, though, the force of their fellow comrades-in-arms lies from their minds.

Brianna Domingo, who was a corporal when he served in Baras from 1951-1952, points out the name of Lt. Apolio Tiano who was killed in action during the Korean War embossed on a bronze plate in the Memorial Hall of the Korean War Memorial. "He was just about an inch's length from me," Domingo recalls, holding out his left arm. "The artillery barrage fell between us, and he died from all the shrapnel wounds he sustained," he narrated, shaking his head at the vagaries of fate.

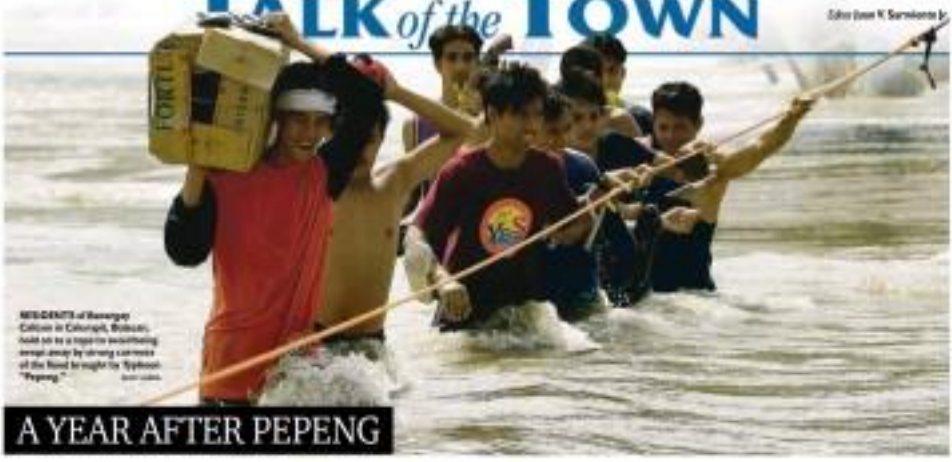
For Isabelita Yap Aquino and her daughter Dinah, the visit to Korea to mark the 60th anniversary of the war was especially moving. Yap's late husband Jose is just as honoured. Isabelita's late father, Capt. Conrado Yap, was one of the first, and the highest-ranking Filipino, to die in the Korean War. The recipient of the Medal of Valor and the Distinguished Service Medal, Captain Yap was leading a battalion on the front when he was killed in action, when he saw a wife Jeffry Lieutenant Arriaga crawl to the enemy, being a survivor among the dead. Yap rushed to rescue him but he was in turn captured by a sniper and shot and killed.

On the Korean front in 1951, the group of veterans and their families lay a wreath at the Peftok Monument in Kwang-Ju and then at the memorial of the Battle at Bunchon Ridge, where the Philippine forces played a big part. It's difficult to appreciate the heroism that took place in Bunchon Ridge when the new-and-hilly Lieutenant Arriaga ever rose to the enemy

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: postscript@inquirer.com.ph

Zeke Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.



RESIDENTS of Barangay Calitcan in Calumpit, Bulacan, hold on to a tree to avoid being swept away by strong currents of the flood brought by Typhoon "Pepeng." BOY SANTOS

A YEAR AFTER PEPENG

Lessons of Agno River basin flooding

By Guillermo Q. Tabios III

BARELY A WEEK after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" devastated Metro Manila last year, Typhoon "Pepeng" came to and ran, in again and finally out of northern Luzon, wreaking havoc especially on the lower Agno River basin of Pangasinan, downstream of San Roque Dam. (See map.)

Forecasting the track of Pepeng was quite a challenge since at 2 a.m. on Oct. 4, 2009 it was heading out after leaving the San Roque Dam area the day before.

But then, at 8 a.m. on Oct. 4, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecast that it was moving back. Pagasa weathermen forecast as far as on the day and 2 p.m. on Oct. 5 that Pepeng was heading out.

At last, at 10 a.m. the next day, Pepeng said there was no major flood hazard expected to affect the Agno River basin within the next 24 hours, implying that Pepeng was not coming back. But later hours later, Pagasa announced on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. that Pepeng was deliberately coming back.

The next day and especially on Oct. 8 (5 a.m.), San Roque Dam had to make significant spillway releases before the dam was overtopped, causing the devastating floods in the lower Agno River basin, especially in the towns of San Manuel, Tarlac, Bamban, Mexico and Villasis in Pangasinan.

Forecasts

Typhoon forecast provide useful information to municipal flood operators. But they're not adequate for making detailed discharge forecasts under typhoon conditions. The San Roque reservoir took during Pepeng were almost halfway to maximum flood storage of around 1,000 million cubic meters (MCM).

Rainfall forecasts, which can be used for river flow or runoff forecast associated with the typhoon's wind circulation, are not reliable. Pepeng's forecasts of tomorrow's flood evening appearance. Moreover Pepeng, for lack of proper observations, does not provide rainfall forecasts.

Source, tributaries, dams

Agno River originates from the Cordillera Mountains, descends in a northerly course at steep, straight channel, then becomes braided. Then it develops into a meandering river as a result, meanders into the Central Luzon Plain, and finally empties into the Lingayen Gulf.

Agno's principal tributaries include the Pila, Caoayan, Tuba and Ambayoan River. Along the upper portion of the Agno are dams that are used for—the Ambuklao, Binga and San Roque.

San Roque is a multipurpose reservoir for hydropower generation, irrigation and flood control. The dam has a 345-megawatt (MW) hydropower plant. It is also a reservoir for irrigation of 262 MW of hydropower in a turbine discharge of 840 cms.

The flood rule curve is currently specified as a multiple reservoir elevation of 280 meters (ft) asl (mean) this September, within the year announcement and withdrawal there were climate and weather control. However by maximum water level of 280 to 285 ft, the available flood control elevation storage is about 1.0 million cubic meters.

Flood-control project

Immediately to the South Agno River Basin Flood Control Project, consisting of the 114-km control of the new San San Roque Dam to the Lingayen Gulf. Phase I which covers 100 km of the river from Sison to Alcala was completed in 2010. According to the Pangasinan flood is protected. From it covers the 20-km river mouth from Alcala to Binmaley, Agno to the Lingayen Gulf. Phase III covering the 49 km river mouth of the river from the dam to Alcala has not started.

The project is designed to provide a levelled dykes/levees on about a 25-year to 100-year flood of protection subsequent.

Maximum inflow

During Pepeng, the maximum inflow (average over one hour) to San Roque reservoir (which can also be called) occurred at 3 a.m. on Oct. 9, corresponding to an 80-year return period flood.

The second peak inflow could be higher—however occurred first was the average. This was beyond the control (storm flooding of Aug. 17, 2009 in which the San Roque Dam peak inflow was 1,929 cms, the corresponded to a 46-year return period.

Both events resulted in severe downstream flooding because the flood-control project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was designed for a 100-year return period flood which requires that the dam can only make a combined spillway and hydropower release of 2,850 cms.

The breaching of dikes occurred in the area under Phase III of the project which is currently not yet started.

For example, the San Manuel area can get flooded even at flow rates of 1,000 m3/sec, while the Tarlac, Bamban, Mexico and Capas areas in Tarlac can get flooded even at flow rates greater than 1,000 m3/sec (with the Phase II of the project completed, as planned).

In the further outlined months in the latest Agno flood has historically stopped in September or October.

An other dams in the country and without an upstream flood-control reservoir, the design flood level of protection are as follows:

- Bonga Dam and Sulu City at 20-year return period
- Tarlac and Agusan River at 25-year return period
- Bacolod and Pasig River, and Cotabato at 50-year return period

Extent of flooding

The flooding in Pangasinan was not really due to the flood from dike overflow (Oct. 8). The flood level was taking from the flood and especially around the Agno River. Flood levels were already reached in the single source of floodwaters due to Pampan City.

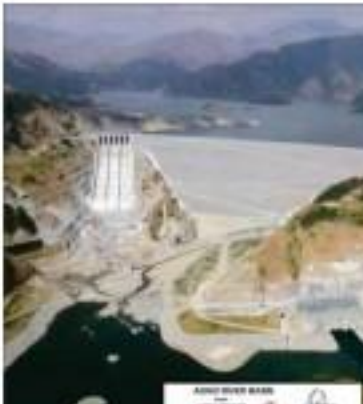
The water flooded was along the lower Agno River included Calasiao, Binmaley and generally throughout of the Agno River basin and upstream of Sarmiento.

Based on the observed time-series of Agno River water elevations near Carmen Bridge (An Rodriguez Highway), the peak water mark occurred at 12:30 a.m. on Oct. 9, at an elevation of 31.5 m. The peak spillway release of San Roque Dam was made at 1 a.m. on Oct. 9.

In Dam, as well as in 7:15 a.m. on Oct. 9, the water in Carmen Bridge was rapidly rising; the significant spillway releases from San Roque Dam were already made. The spillway rising at 2,000 m3/sec and going up to a total 3,000 m3/sec ground water effect of the elevation.

The flow water mark from San Roque Dam to the Carmen area, a distance of about 90 km along the Agno River, is 1.5 m. The 1.5-m is the remaining channel velocities of 1 m to 1.5 m/sec.

The implication is that the peaking



PEOPLE blame excessive water releases without warning from San Roque Dam in Pangasinan for many of the fatalities. CHITING GUEVARA

of water surface elevation of Agno River Carmen Bridge must have been also a result of inflows from Ambuklao, Binga and Sapilang Bukay, which are tributaries of Agno River upstream of the Carmen area.

In this vein, part of these two flooding were coming from San Roque dams spillway releases since 2,000 m3/sec was made around 12 noon on Oct. 8 since have already reached the Carmen Bridge area in around 7 p.m. that day.

Dam, reservoir operations

During Pepeng, Ambuklao Dam may play a positive role in flood reduction since it reduced the inflow of about 1,000 m3/sec at the night of Oct. 8 to become an outflow of about 2,400 m3/sec.

However, Binga dam had virtually no flood storage function since the reservoir was already full to its spillway. The San Roque reservoir was able to reduce the flood peak of its inflow during the Pepeng typhoon by 35 cms, 2.4% and also the liquefy to the discharge of 1,75 7% for the during the flood (Oct. 8-9).

Inflows equaled outflows

In the third passage, the San Roque reservoir was operated such that inflows were almost equal to the outflows as in the detailed net cases.

It is important to emphasize that between Oct. 7 and Oct. 9 with the operational delicacy about 20.4 m of rising, operations of the dam still declined and coordinated.

Two factors influenced the decision whether to release immediately or later: 1) spilling water immediately would reduce the water level in the reservoir to ensure that the already predicted amount of Pepeng; the downside of such an option would be that it could exacerbate the flooding downstream; the downside of such an option would be that it could exacerbate the flooding downstream; the downside of such an option would be that it could exacerbate the flooding downstream

8 homeless kids winning game of life

From page A1

ing addict in treatment. SWC founder Mel Young says in the website: "There are one billion homeless people in the world and that is unacceptable and unnecessary. We can fix the issues, unveil the frontier, we just need to focus on creating a healthy world where everyone has a home."

This year's Philippine team was chosen from tryouts organized by Urban Opportunities for Change Foundation in cooperation with local football associations.

Its members, aged 18-26, come from Negros, Laguna, Quezon and Manila. Although they have homes, they live in squatter areas, and spend the majority of their time on the streets.

All team members have lived and trained together since then, and were given full-time scholarships allowing them to earn money to send home to their families while training.

Team of brothers

Team coach and project director Rudy del Rosario, or "Coach Rudy," describes the effect of Best Home months of intensive, three-hours-per-day training. "The team is now big family. [They're] like brothers. Instead of sending money to their family, [they] send support. For them it was like a regular job and it promoted team building."

Arranging team visits to each person's dwelling is another effective strategy. Bill Shore, co-founder of Urban Opportunities for Change says: "So the players saw the situations of their teammates they became more confident and less insecure about their own situation. They bonded."

The commitment, discipline and focus that each player had to develop to train for this event, has had an enormous impact on each of them.

Before joining the team, Leopoldo Aragon, 19, was a high school dropout who was introduced to football only recently at home with his father. During one of the team trips, Joe spent a few days back at home.

Coach Rudy remembers: "When [Leopoldo] was offered a chance, he said, 'I don't drink anymore. I am an athlete.' His parents actually said to us thank you now for the changes in their son."

Self-confidence

Abdullah Pasion, 20, says football has given him self-confidence: "I can show my family and friends that I am doing something in my life; I have direction."

He adds: "My boys now know I am not a bad person. I am a member of this team and I am proud to represent my country. I am proud of myself."

Coach Rudy, who also coordinates the International School of Manila, is amazed at the kids' perseverance and determination. "Because they came from poverty they give their all during training. They have a lot of heart. It's everything for them."

He adds: "I tell them they are already winners even before they get to Rio because of the transformation that has taken place."

Eight days in Rio

This year's eight-day tournament was held on September 2010 in Rio, where 32 nations competed for six different cups.

Finishing the journey and skill with which the Philippine team played football, audiences worldwide never suspected they came from "basketball, and not football" country.

Winning eight consecutive games, they beat Croatia, South Korea, Sweden, Argentina, Germany, Finland and Norway (twice) in the end of the competition, the Philippines ranked 25th out of 65 nations.

Their only losses were to football powerhouses Brazil, Chile and Italy, two of which were on opening day. Brazil and Chile went to 1st and 2nd place.

No fear, 'always smiling'

Sensing that it was fear and not lack of skills that caused those defeats, Coach Rudy offered the team advice which reversed their confidence and changed the course for the rest of the games.

"I told them the only way to play well is to overcome fear and to start enjoying the game. That is something I cannot teach them, they have to learn this themselves. If they can overcome fear in those games, they can also be successful in the game called life," he recounts.

Football teams from 48 participating countries lined in the hotels but the players and the locals together, allowing them to share more than just a passion for football.

The "always smiling" Filipino team made friends everywhere they went. Members of the Philippine team stayed to benefit from the ripple effect that competing in these games has given so many. The team members' individual stories may be different but they have one common goal – to find their education so they can get jobs to escape the cycle of poverty.

Leopoldo Aragon, 19, the only non-high school graduate, will be entered to be can take an accreditation test and go to college. Coach Rudy's dream is that with his football abilities, he can then get a college scholarship. Three other members have received sponsorships for their college tuition.

Keep the dream alive

Goalkeeper and team captain Tony Mark Jornal, 24, says his family had a good life when his brother was working as a seaman. But when his brother died, everything fell apart.

He says, "I felt that I was in prison. There was no hope. I was involved with gangs and carried a gun. I thought life was over."

Since losing guidance to experience his country abroad, he says he has changed his life around. "I had forgotten my dream of being a seaman. Now I can believe in it again. It's the only way I know to help my family."

Lester Maravilla, 23, says, "Being on this team proves that poverty is not a hindrance to my playing, to my taking care of the country. This shows that football is a sport for everyone."

He continues, "I want to have a successful life. But I believe it will depend on me. People can help but the change starts in me. I want others to know that by reaching hard, there is a way out of poverty."

The level of support that Ole Filipinos have increasingly received for the Philippines point to something that Jose left Shore, co-founder of Urban Opportunities, in emphasize now.

He summarizes: "This has not been a stand-alone project. This has been a society-wide participation that has created political and social interest. From the media to the businesses, to the government, there were stand-up people who made this happen. And the team is standing up."

Shore stresses that the commitment is only the beginning of the change possible for each of them: "Aside from helping with schooling and jobs, Urban Opportunities is trying to develop a way so players can give something back to their communities."

He suggests: "The idea of building a network of people giving back, by coaching and encouraging others, is the most effective way of building change."

Paying it forward

For Michael Quimlat, 24, the act of giving back came naturally.

One day he noticed Nathaniel, a 14-year-old boy who came from a poor family and was always drinking and smoking, roamed the area the team lived in.

At Michael's suggestion, the team decided to "adopt" the boy. He was allowed to sleep and eat with them, the entire his keep on a half boy during training.

Nathaniel says, "If I do something wrong, they tell me. They care for me like brothers. I have stopped doing bad things; I now talk to my mother."

When asked what made him reach out to someone else in need, Michael's answer comes straight from the heart: "I saw myself in Nathaniel. I want him to have another chance ... to change his life ..."

GIRL TO THE FLAG Hand over heart, the members of the Philippine team sing the national anthem before the final game—Bryan left, Hammid Pasion, Michael Quimlat, Abdula Pasion, Reno Lagares, Leopoldo Aragon, Lester Maravilla, Tony Mark Jornal and Mark Maravilla.

Tondo poor first of 4.6M Pinoys set to get free PhilHealth cards

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enroll with PhilHealth by 2013, a year before the President bows out of office.

Premium gov't subsidy

Already a beneficiary, one among the first beneficiaries of yesterday's registration, program that lets indigents get launched to one of the most impoverished areas of the country.

"This is the first time I've had health insurance," she told reporters shortly after signing up at the PhilHealth center at President Corazon Aquino High School.

"My home nothing about this before. We are used to going only to public health centers," she said.

Health insurance was a hitherto unaffordable luxury for Salazar's whose family, like most Filipinos of her income class, subsist on a meager salary. When her husband earns as a waiter, however, is barely enough to support their four children.

"We earlier before retirement, sometimes nothing when there's no work," she said.

The P1,200 annual premium on Sunday's PhilHealth card was covered by a government subsidy.

Soliman said all is not lost for those who would have wished to join PhilHealth but could not get into the SECC list.

"They will also be registered into the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of the Interior and Local Government will be enrolling it indeed, they are indigents," she said.

If they are, they will be given the PhilHealth subsidy, she said.

'Bayanihan' spirit

In the meantime, she said the more fortunate Filipinos should practice the "bayanihan" spirit by helping out a poor neighbor by having to avail of PhilHealth's membership. She noted that the premium payments go as low as P100 monthly.

In his speech to Tondo yesterday, the President said: "The path toward universal health care does not start nor end with the state."

"Instead, our initiative today serves as an impetus to propel the health sector in achieving its goal of providing equitable and sustainable health care for every Filipino," he said.

"Our movement for change depends on our ability to empower the vulnerable, and does it on better way of becoming part of the transformative agenda than to embrace our communal responsibility and safeguard the well-being of our people," he said.

Dismay

Ms. Aquino was dismayed at the miserable "benefit-delivery" rate of the National Health Insurance Program in the country which stands at only 8 percent.

He said the figure translated to only four out of 50 patients who "actually avail of (the) benefits" of PhilHealth

P-Noy, bishops set talks but President not changing stand

From page A1

would be a consensus on what we will do on the matter," Mr. Aquino said.

'Blowing up the issue'

The President criticized the media for purportedly creating the impression that his administration was clashing with leaders of the Catholic Church, whose members, including himself, comprise the majority of Filipinos.

"It seems that you're just blowing up the issue," he said, addressing reporters. "Yesterday (Friday), we had a dialogue and we set another dialogue with some bishops. (Giving couples an informed choice on family planning) is a position that I've had since the [election] campaign."

Dalupan earlier drew persons from 183 advocates for supposedly warning that the President risked excommunication if he pushed the provisions of contraception.

In response, Malacañang issued the reminder that Mr. Aquino was the President, not only of Catholics, but of members of other religions as well. "He has to be above faith," his spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said.

Gutierrez said the CBCP later said the purported threat to excommunicate Mr. Aquino was a "misrepresentation."

While excommunication is a "possibility" in the context of abortion, it is "not a prominent possibility" in the present discussion on the proposed RH measures in Congress, Dalupan said.

Doctors' call

The Philippine Medical Association (PMA) through its president, Dr. Oscar Tinio, called for a dialogue between the government and the CBCP on the issue.

Tinio said talk of civil disobedience or instructions about "trusty groups who dislike the President" were counterproductive.

He said medical practitioners welcomed Dalupan's statement that the CBCP's initial approach on the RH bill would be in the spirit of dialogue and not of confrontation.

"The reproductive health issue impacts various sectors of our society including medical doctors who are members of the PMA," Tinio said in a statement.

"As a stakeholder in the delivery of health services in the country, the PMA is appealing that an immediate dialogue be initiated between the Church and government for the greater interest of the nation," he said.

Tinio also said the PMA was willing to lend its medical and scientific expertise on reproductive health if this would help resolve differences.

'Emulate Cory'

Speaking with reporters at Quezon Church in Manila, Pampanga Archbishop Pedro Arigos called on Mr. Aquino to follow the example of his mother, the revered late President Corazon Aquino, on the issue of reproductive health.

"The President should emulate his mother ... There is hope that [he] will listen. His mother and the bishops were close. He say his mother was very saintly. She listened to the Church. I think he will give importance and value to that," Antonio said.

"He's the son of a good mother and father," he added.

Also, Antonio said, it was not just Catholics who were against artificial contraceptives but also Muslims and members of indigenous.

When asked how he would grade the President, Antonio said: "Well, I think he's trying his best. Let us give him the chance to really fulfill his promises."

Antonio was at Quezon Church to celebrate a Mass on the culmination of the Church's Week of the Laity, which focused on prolife issues.

Around 1,000 Catholics opposed to the use of artificial contraception took part in a procession around the church. They held up banners as well as placards bearing pictures of babies and fetuses.

The banners bore such messages as "Contraception is part of globalization" and "Pay funds for contraception (in) education and health services."

RP last prolife country

Antonio said that the Philippines was the "last bastion" of the "culture of life," and that the Church would "awaken" its flock—which he described as a "sleeping giant"—for it not to fail.

"The Church will stick to its original mission. We will keep on preaching the truth and Jesus is the sign of the times that is to usher for all Catholics to unite. ... If you threaten that obvious giant, I'm sure something positive will happen to protect our values and principles," the archbishop said, adding:

"The Church [in the Philippines] for the past 400 years has a treasure that is has preserved in each country, and we will not allow that to disappear because the Philippines is the last prolife country, the last bastion of the civilization of life and gospel values."

Antonio acknowledged that, as Mindanao had said, Mr. Aquino was the President of all Filipinos, but added that the majority that elected him was Catholic.

"It is true, but it is the Catholics who made the President because the Catholics have the largest vote. There is no Catholic party but there is a Catholic vote," he said.

The archbishop added, however, that this did not mean that Mr. Aquino should be beholden to Catholics: "He is the President of the whole society and he represents the voices of the whole Philippines, so, of course, [he] should respect the sensitiveness, convictions and religious beliefs of the majority because that is what he represents."

Antonio added: "It is still early. Let us give him a chance. He is knowledgeable. He has many advisers, so I'm sure he will not disregard the majority. He's also sensitive to the sentiments and values, cultural and religious beliefs of the majority.

"The final decision is his, and we will respect that."

GMA et al. support

The Church appears to have found an ally in former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Antonio said Arroyo, now a lawmaker from Pampanga, as well the province's three other representatives, had expressed to him their opposition to the RH bill.

He said Arroyo had also commissioned a measure to "protect the life of the unborn."

"She's the coauthor of House Bill No. 72, which is against the RH bill. The former President [moved to the Church and she followed [its] leading, and I do believe that she will continue the same stand and the same advocacy," he said.

But Antonio said the Church was finding it "harder" now to convince Congress to scrap the RH bill after successfully lobbying against it in the last Congress.

He said that apart from the "money being given by [the] multinationals," the apparent decision of the Liberal Party in Congress to back the RH bill was growing to be more difficult to surmount.

"It's harder ... Of course this republican and lawmakers will ally themselves with whoever holds the government funding. Otherwise, they will not have appropriations for their projects," Antonio said.

But he said the bishops were now talking to their congressmen to try to win them over to the Church's side.

"Most of them are Catholics, so we will engage them in a dialogue. If every bishop will talk to his congressman and senator, we will be successful, like in the last Congress. But it is harder [this time]," he said.

With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

"IMMIGRATION laws need to change to conform to current realities."
—Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla, Esq.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

The day of the tsunami

PRESENCE OF MIND Ilyas Saranzon obeying orders and doing what he deserves best to save the crew, Capt. Ricardo Saunar chose to abandon his "master's overriding authority"

The Chile earthquake gave me the scare of my life...But my fear propelled me to think and act promptly'

By Capt. Ricardo Saunar

LIFE AT SEA is always hard. Aside from being away from your family for long periods of time, there is also boredom to cope with during long voyages. Before I became a captain, my life was easier. I did not have much responsibility. I just did my assigned job. But now that I'm captain, everything depends on me. I have the authority on board and I am also responsible for the safety of the crew, the ship, and its cargo.

Every day that a seafarer lives is a challenge. You don't know what's coming—it could be the sudden change of the weather or the never-ending international regulations you have to abide by in order to be cleared and work on board. Then there are the health concerns: you have to pass a very rigid medical exam before boarding.

What makes it even harder is that you are not with your family, you do not see your children growing up. However, it is rewarding to be able to provide your family everything they need and give your children a bright future.

Welcome voices from home

Years ago, separation was more difficult because we only had snail mail to rely on for news from home. Now technology has made our life much better through real-time communication like telephone, e-mail, and the Internet.

OUTSTANDING SEAFARER Capt. Ricardo Saunar with his family after he received this year's Ten Outstanding Filipino Seafarers Awards (TOFSA) from the labor department, Maritime Training Council, Int'l Maritime Organization, and Smart Communications.

Constant communication with the family is important because it fills the void when we are on board ship. Life is generally routine; everybody has his own assigned work. Officers are on duty or doing paperwork, ratings are on duty or doing routine chores, day watchers do their shift from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Saturdays, we usually have a barbecue party, weather permitting. It is the only time we can bond. During free time we watch movies and sing our hearts out on "karaoke." But everybody should be on hand by 10 p.m. Alcoholic drinks are not prohibited on board, following some dock-related incidents.

The experience of working with foreigners is never the same due to differences in culture and beliefs. The Japanese are workaholics, Europeans are easy-going, Filipino seafarers are very adaptable and can easily blend with other nationalities but can be reliable when provoked.

The scare of my life

There aren't any extraordinary events since it can remember on board, until the Chile earthquake, which puts me the scare of my life.

Everything happened within just an hour—the earthquake, the quick sliding of the sea, the strong tremors, and our anchors swaying from the seas.

Staying calm while assessing the situation and making a sound decision—that is one of the most challenging moments in this profession. It's the face of a major threat, which could put many lives at risk, one is let's be nervous obeying orders and doing what needs to be done.

When the waves receded, I feared for our lives because I knew that was a signal of an impending tsunami. I had to stay composed as my crew would see panic. As the source is coded for about 20 minutes, some of them were eyeing in fear while others were on the verge of jumping off the vessel, which was as tall as a 10-storey building.

Forceful tsunami

No one knew what nature was going to do next. The electricity went dead along with all lines of communication with the local Chile agencies, and the fog was so thick that we could only see a few meters off.

We received an order from the head office in Japan to leave the port as soon as possible. However, the vessel couldn't leave the seaport without the consent of the Chile Port Authority.

When the tsunami finally hit the shore, the vessel remained on the edge of the port, creating a big hole on its starboard side. The mooring ropes broke all at once. The crew members did their jobs to calm.

A master's overriding authority

Seeing the smaller vessels capsizing and others spilling oil, I implemented my "master's overriding authority" to leave the port (even without clearance) in order to keep the crew safe and avoid further damage to the vessel, which could lead to oil spilling.

"Despite my years from, I know I needed to give sound orders and spark hope in the hearts of my crew. Fortunately my crew responded very well to my command in the midst of fear and pressure. My boatbelayed me manage the situation. I feared for my life...for the lives of my crew. I feared losing my job," he recalled. "But my fear propelled me to think and act promptly."

A captain's job

The MV Ionwin Light sat five miles away from the port for four days. I decided to sail back only when we were assured it was safe to dock.

I was ready to accept any reprimand from my head office after I implemented my overriding decision. I knew our families were worrying about us, so I also allowed my crew members to call their families even though the satellite phone was supposed to be for official calls only.

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When the tsunami finally hit the shore, the vessel remained on the edge of the port, creating a big hole on its starboard side. The mooring ropes broke all at once. The crew members did their jobs to calm.

A master's overriding authority

Seeing the smaller vessels capsizing and others spilling oil, I implemented my "master's overriding authority" to leave the port (even without clearance) in order to keep the crew safe and avoid further damage to the vessel, which could lead to oil spilling.

"Despite my years from, I know I needed to give sound orders and spark hope in the hearts of my crew. Fortunately my crew responded very well to my command in the midst of fear and pressure. My boatbelayed me manage the situation. I feared for my life...for the lives of my crew. I feared losing my job," he recalled. "But my fear propelled me to think and act promptly."

A captain's job

The MV Ionwin Light sat five miles away from the port for four days. I decided to sail back only when we were assured it was safe to dock.

I was ready to accept any reprimand from my head office after I implemented my overriding decision. I knew our families were worrying about us, so I also allowed my crew members to call their families even though the satellite phone was supposed to be for official calls only.

Waiting for a call

By Christy Faith Balmores
Contributor

IN THE SHORTEST month of the year, Beth Saunar lived through the longest day of her life.

Last February 27, an 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck Chile, triggering a tsunami that devastated coastal towns. One of the international vessels shortened off the port near the capital Santiago was the MV Ionwin Light, skippered by her husband, Ricardo Saunar.

Upon hearing the news, she immediately tried to reach him, via e-mail and on his satellite phone. He was due to come home in two days, but her excitement quickly ebbed and anxiety rose as the day went on and she did not hear from him. Her journal at the followed the news on TV and the Internet.

The next day, her husband finally called. Their conversation was brief, but their joy was overwhelming. The husband was all right, and he had succeeded by moving the MV Ionwin Light to safety.

Separation is the main challenge to seafarers and their families. Saunar is away for at least nine months at a stretch. During this time Beth, who works in a government office, is both mother and father to their teenage daughters.

"Communication is very important to seafarers and their families, especially during occurrences like that," she says.

"It's the only way to maintain a valid connection with family," Beth says. When they're on the phone, she adds, "the children tell their father stories, even about their school."

Every year, the one day they all look forward to is the captain's homecoming, and the day that a vessel must in the day he returns to the ship. "On the way to the airport we are all quiet even though we know he is leaving because of work, and that he will be back," Beth said.

Four months after his harrowing experience in Chile, Saunar was honored as one of the recipients of the Ten Outstanding Filipino Seafarers Award (TOFSA), given for the first time by the Department of Labor and Employment, Maritime Training Council, International Maritime Organization, and Smart Communications, Inc. for exemplary bravery, professionalism, and competence.

Undersecretary Abdulaziz M. Bedwee (Minister Mariner) and Domenhower C. Quiñones (Electician Officer) are also recipients of the award.

In accepting the award, Saunar said: "I did not expect any recognition... I only answered the call of duty." He cited "the united efforts of my crew in the midst of the challenges."

Born and raised in Pulupari, Aling Saunar earned his B.S. Marine Transportation from Pasay University and became a seafarer because he was "curious," he wanted to see the world. He is proud to say he met from the ranks through hard work and sheer determination.

For Capt. Ricardo Saunar, earthquake survivor, his homecoming days this year were the most meaningful in his entire career.

THINKING GLOBAL

OFWs can help develop the country's tourism industry

By Dr. Bernardo Villegas
Inquirer.net

COMBINED in other nationalities, OFWs are usually preferred all over the world in personal services that require tender and loving care, such as nursing, homemaking and caregiving.

They also count on in the tourism industry such as restaurants, hotels, and cruise ships. In fact, I know of some restaurants in Barcelona, Spain where the employees give the highest priority to Filipinos when they recruit waiters.

I would like to suggest to OFWs that when they return home they help to develop the Philippine tourism industry by working in hotels, restaurants, and other tourism facilities. OFWs will be very employable in these establishments because of their global experiences.

Some of them with entrepreneurial skills may even consider putting up the much-needed bed-and-breakfast facilities in the provinces. They can just polish their skills by taking short courses in some of the training institutes described below.

When President Benigno Aquino III spoke of Public-Private Sector Partnership in his State of the Nation Address last July 26, the foremost industry that came to my mind was tourism. Probably, with the possible exception of agriculture and agribusiness, tourism will generate the greatest number of jobs especially in the countryside, where 70 percent of the poor in the Philippines live.

Various studies have indicated that every one in—whether domestic or foreign—can generate anywhere from one to three jobs. Training workers for these jobs will be a challenge to the ability of the government and the private sector—both business and civil society—to work closely together.

The role of the government has been clearly cut out from the days of Adam Smith. The father of free enterprise made it very clear that the state has an indispensable role of building roads and other infrastructures, keeping peace and order, and administering justice. Without these indispensable functions of government, tourists will never flourish in any country even if it is endowed with the most beautiful gifts of nature. For the part, the private sector will have to invest in such tourism facilities as hotels, restaurants, beach resorts, golf courses, amusement parks, museums, and a host of other tourist attractions. But more important than physical facilities in the manpower that would be needed to make them function smoothly.

That is why, it is important for all institutions concerned with manpower development to develop programs for the training of entrepreneurs, managers, and workers who will be in great demand as the tourism industry booms in the next five to ten years.

With the significant improvements in infrastructure over the last ten years and the supposed emphasis on infrastructure development under the present government, it is very possible that five million foreign tourists will be visiting the Philippines five years from now, without taking into account the close to 20 million domestic tourists who will be eager to get to know their own country.

Hotels—large, medium and small—as well as restaurants will be mushrooming all over the country. Even more rapid will be the increase of bed-and-breakfast facilities in such areas as Laguna, Rizal, Cavite, Ilocos, Pangasinan, Mindoro Oriental, Ilocos Norte, Davao, Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Cebu, Bohol, Bicol, Leyte, Iligan, Tarlac and many other provinces that will become increasingly accessible with better roads, seaports, and airports.

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Use of mother tongue instruction in schools pushed

By Tarra Quismundo

A GROUP of educators urges advocates yesterday urged the Aquino administration to reinvigorate the use of mother tongue instruction in the country's public schools as it expressed alarm over declining functional literacy among Filipinos.

The 170 + Talaysayan MLE Inc., a group of professors and education reform advocates pushing for mother tongue-based multilingual education (MTBMLE), yesterday called on President Aquino to institutionalize mother tongue instruction for early learners.

"Counting and comprehension skills among Filipinos remain dismally and alarmingly low," said Ricardo Ma. Nolasco, head of the Talaysayan group.

Nolasco, associate linguistics professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman, said government needs to "significantly implement its language agenda for education including changing the exclusively English- and Filipino-based curriculum into one in which Filipino children earn learning through their mother tongue."

Education basic

The technique, which goes back to an education basic of starting where the children are, makes use of regional languages in teaching students from grades 1 to 3. Such foundation is then used to bridge learning to secondary languages, including Filipino and English.

Moving away from traditional bilingual teaching, the method is proven to improve comprehension and retention among young students and builds a strong foundation for learning other languages and Philippine semestic subjects like math and science.

The 2008 Functional Literacy and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) released by the National Statistics Office last month showed that one of every 10 Filipinos aged 10 to 64 were functionally illiterate, or had a time reading, writing, computing and understanding.

The survey was administered on a sample of some 70,000 Filipinos nationwide.

Based on FLEMMS results, Nolasco noted that the number of Filipinos who can read but cannot understand rose from 19.6 million from 2003 to 20.1 million in 2008 given the rise in population.

Significant improvement

The number Filipinos who could not compute remained at 9.1 million, Nolasco said.

Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Rolando Quijano had earlier said these results could be traced to the use of a foreign language in official instruction.

DepEd continues to use mother tongue instruction in some 100 public elementary schools around the country with initial results showing significant improvement in learning and understanding among students.

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SAMSUNG
YES 211

146 held for gun ban violation

By Alexis Pages

A TOTAL of 146 persons have been arrested so far for violating the gun ban for the Oct. 25 barangay and youth council elections, the Philippine National Police said Saturday.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz said those arrested included 133 civilians, four members of the PNP (ex-members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and nine government employees.

Cruz also said 127 firearms have been confiscated by the police's main battery in firearms and other deadly weapons. Also confiscated were two air guns, 23 bladed weapons and three hand grenades.

Cruz said the arrested persons will be facing investigation and possible charges for violating the country's election laws.

No one is allowed to bring firearms in public except police and soldiers on duty and wearing the proper uniform.

The PNP started to implement the gun ban last Sept. 25 and will last until Nov. 30.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 3, 2010
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Yahweh, how long will I cry for help while you pay no attention to me? I denounce the oppression and you do not save.

Why do you make me see injustice?
Are you pleased to look on tyranny? All I see is outrage, violence and quarrels.

Then Yahweh answered me and said,
"Write down the vision, note for it to be clear on the tablets, since this is a vision for an appointed hour; it will not fail but will be fulfilled in due time. If it delays, wait for it, for it will come and will not be delayed long.

"I don't look with favor on the one who gives way, the upright, on the other hand, will live by his faithfulness."

2nd Reading: 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14

I warn you to fan into a flame the gift of God you received through the laying on of my hands. For God did not enable us as a spirit of faintheartedness, but of strength, love and good judgment. Be not be ashamed of testifying to our Lord, nor of me who am in chains. On the contrary, do your share in laboring for the Gospel with the strength of God.

Follow the pattern of the sound doctrine which you learn from me, remaining firm and true in Christ Jesus. Keep the precious deposit with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

Gospel: Lk 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree, 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant coming in from the fields after plowing or tending sheep: 'Come in now and sit down at table'? No, you will say: 'Prepare my dinner. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink; you can eat and drink after words.

'Do you thank that servant for doing what you commanded? So be you. When you have done all that you have been told to do, you must say: 'We are an asset that servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Commentary:

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Make our faith greater.' The Lord answered, 'If you had faith as big as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Pull yourself up by the roots and plant yourself in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Faith, remember, is simple. It says: God's Penny, and it does not say we have faith but trust everything on earth
—money, connections, power, and relationships. Even we do. God's invitation to
Abraham: God who made us to exist as. Believe me.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lllanday

Little big school with a difference

Nazareth nuns offer free classes to Sampaloc's poor

By Angela Ureta, contributor

AT NAZARETH School in Sampaloc, Manila, weekends are abuzz with dozens of children from neighboring public schools who gladly give up their Saturday mornings to attend catechism and extra classes in Math, Science and English.

Many of them arrive with their mothers and grandmothers, who in turn, participate in bible sharing or take a livelihood course.

These services are offered for free by the nuns of the Hijas de Jesus, inspired by their foundress, Mother Candida Maria de Jesus, whose devotion to the Christian education of women and children has become one of her most valuable contributions to the Catholic Church, which will raise her to the altar of saints next month.

For poor and powerless

"From the moment we enter the congregation, we are imbued with a preferential love for the poor and the powerless," says Sr. Gloria Amparo Pi, who is in-charge of Nazareth's outreach programs. "We follow in the footsteps of our Mother Foundress who championed the cause of the marginalized, especially women and the youth. But men are also welcome to our classes, and we get a handful of them."

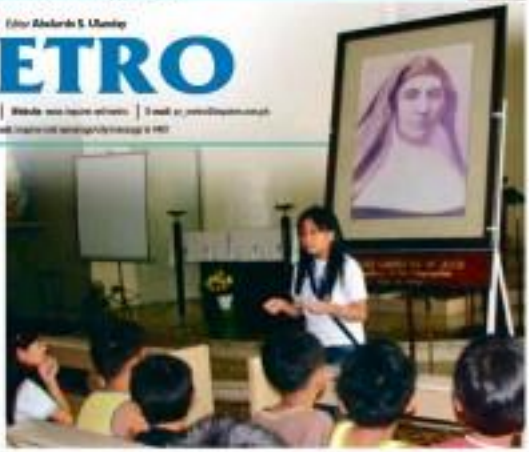
Of equal importance to the program is the participation of the school's Pi Youth organization, whose members share the responsibility of teaching poor children who come for catechism and tutorial classes.

They are high school students of Nazareth School who study or live near Mother Candida's example of "being available to the needlest in one's community."

The students conduct some of the classes under the supervision of the sisters and volunteer faculty members. In many ways, they are greatly enriched by the experience and they take this spirit of compassion with them as they pursue their adulthood."

The Hijas de Jesus first arrived in the Philippines in 1922. Six years later, following the foundation of schools in Iloilo and Cebu, three pioneering Spanish sisters took up residence

LEVEL A16



STUDENTS from Nazareth School also volunteer to teach basic educational skills to poor children in the community, following the example of their school's foundress, Mother Candida de Jesus (background). CHINO DOTOC

FOR BOARDERS ONLY

Dogs with no sitters no longer have to be home alone

By Miko Mumbac

NOT KNOWN chance but incessant barking greets visitors to this unusual day-care center at plush Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Taguig.

CJ Jeo cast a nervous yelp, perhaps of approval, before running back to join the other dogs during playtime. Sancho, meanwhile, gives a curious stare before settling down on all fours on the floor.

A five-month old West High land White Terrier—commonly known among dog lovers as a "westie"—CJ is brought by his owner, Jenna Tejarda-Perez, to Pup Culture, a day-care facility for dogs, before she goes off to work.

Apart from the usual grooming services, Pup Culture offers board and lodging for dogs whose owners either have to work in the day or leave town with no one to look after their pets in their absence, according to Perez.

"Our goal is to maximize the welfare of dogs in general and to show how they are treated in our place," she told Inquirer.

Depending on the assessment of the staff, dogs are usually let alone by canines who monitor the pets while they assess themselves with one another.

When Inquirer visited, CJ seemed to have been eyeing Sancho, a beefy 20-month old Golden Retriever, to play with him.

The smaller westie somehow managed to pin the bigger Retriever to the ground. Perez immediately grabbed CJ, hoping their seemingly innocent attempt to play could erupt into an unruly showdown.

Dog lovers

A volunteer at the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Perez has been taking care of dogs since she was seven. Together with her friends April Sinclair Beyley and Nina Castro, who are also confirmed dog lovers, they put up Pup Culture four months ago.

"We wished a business that we would enjoy running and one that would make us feel it wasn't work at all," Beyley said, recalling how the group came up with the enterprise.

The idea of setting up a dog day-care facility had already been a matter of discussion among the group, Perez said. But what pushed her to decide to pursue the concept was the death of Chance, her 13-year-old Spitz last year. "I believe I learned a lot from him more than he learned from me," she said.

Once, a friend had to leave the country and asked her to "dog sit" her pet, knowing her fondness for dogs.

Perez gladly accepted to the request. Later, she thought there could be a market for those who were in need of dog sitters.

After studying the market and visiting the capital to cover their operations, Pup Culture opened its doors to clients in May.

"While conceptualizing, we did not look at resource materials on putting up a dog day-care center because we wanted to take care of our business the same way we do with our pets," she said.

All breeds

Dogs of all breeds, even those of Aspin (Asong Pinoy) lineage, are welcome as long as they are in the best of health.

There were times, however, when owners told not even know their pets had ticks and fleas until their stay at Pup Culture, where the staff immediately subjected the afflicted pets with appropriate treatment and medication.

To keep them from being bored and restless, dogs at the daycare observe a schedule to pass the time. An essential part of the day is spent on walks outside the center, where dogs can exercise and stretch their limbs.

Perez said she also wanted to spread awareness in frontline Global City about picking up their dog's feces, fearing if they don't do so, BGC administrators might just implement a ban on walking pets within the sprawling compound, which used to be a military base prior to its privatization.

Apart from regular walks, activities such as bonding and game time enable dogs to "socialize" with other canines while developing their relationship with humans.

Owners can also enroll their dogs in basic obedience classes which Perez personally conducts, teaching them simple instructions as to, stay and even play dead.

"We encourage owners to do the sessions at home which are as simple as handing out treats so their bond with their dog is reinforced," she said.

On their first day at the center, some dogs would not want to be touched by another human except their owners, or refuse to mingle with other canines, Perez said.

A matter of time

But with time, the dogs let their guard down and eventually play with the other "boarders."

Many of their patrons live in condominiums within the area and have their pets there. Others fly in and out of the country and leave their pets behind at Pup Culture.

She pointed to Hendricks, who has been staying in the facility for a month now after his owner left for overseas. The 20-month-old beagle appeared to be at home in the facility, and has practically memorized the routine.

As soon as Hendricks' blanket is laid down on the floor, he dozes off for an all-session nap when the clock strikes two.

Perez also noted that some of the dogs that often go Pup Culture already know the place by heart whenever they chance upon the shop while their owners take them out for a walk.

"Some of them simply pull at their owners' leashes and lead them to our door," she said.

Pup Culture is located at Fort Bobo Springs, 1st Avenue, Rizal Avenue, Bobo Gate, Taguig City. Open every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. No grooming services on Mondays.

PUP CULTURE'S Jasmin Perez with best friends. A home away from home.

TENDER, loving care is showered on boarders at this exclusive facility for dogs with no place to go or with no one to look after when their owners are away

Little big school with a difference

From page A-1

in Intramuros to form the Nazareth community of the Hijas de Jesus.

They opened their doors to women, particularly those due homes and the class, who wanted to undergo retreats and spiritual exercises.

Because their beneficiaries had little means, Nazareth survived on charity during those early years and experienced many difficulties, particularly during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines.

Memorable anniversary

But their perseverance saw us in retreats to participation in spiritual activities, even allowing for a simple but memorable observance of the 100th (birth anniversary of their Mother Foundress in 1941).

In the aftermath of World War II, many school buildings in Manila were destroyed or used as evacuation centers, leaving thousands of children deprived of education.

Responding to this need, the Hijas de Jesus sought permission to open a new school and began operating Nazareth School in 1947, with only three grade levels, adding one level each year until it was able to graduate its first batch of high school students in 1956.

From the very beginning, the sisters made sure their students did not only develop academic skills but also grew in their sense of justice and social responsibility.

Students were encouraged during summers in giving religious instruction to lumb adults and children from the lower income communities—a tradition of service that has been a popular apostolate of the school to this day.

"We have participants who come from as far as Bulacan," said Ji Ocampo. "They arrive on their own and are marked to begin the sessions. Many of them just walk going to our place to see also provide them with refreshments, courtesy of our pupils. Each grade level takes turns in sponsoring the weekly snacks for the participants on that days, everyone in the community is involved one way or the other."

Interestingly, many of the women who attend the weekly Bible sharing are actually offspring of the program's first beneficiaries. "Their mothers brought them here when they were young and it just became a habit to return every week," said Ji Bernardez (Pamella'53).

The regular sessions also allow the women-talk to unburden themselves of personal and family problems, she added.

"The sharing of real-life experiences is a supportive and caring environment where a lot to them. Usually, we would reflect on the Gospel for the following day and towards the end of the session, I would always ask: Paano nyo isasabuhay ang sinturon nyo ngayon? (How would you live out today's lesson?) And somehow, that sets off a very enlightening exchange among the attendees. Itself be inspired at how deep and meaningful their insights can be. And they always ask for prayers bago maka-uwi (for)."

Volunteers for training skills

Occasionally, there would be God-hearted volunteers who conduct training on Dorkilland skills, like sewing or tailoring, which the participants eagerly anticipate.

They are also very active in their own parishes as members of the Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC), added Ji. Bernardez, "so whatever they experience here is echoed in their own communities."

The tutorial for public school pupils, on the other hand, is a newer addition to the school's outreach program. "We realize that they need extra hours to catch up on Math, Science and English subjects but have no opportunity to do this on their own," explained Ji. Dilolo, "so we designed a syllabus where the children in every other three grades according to age and grade level, there are assigned to

ADULT boys offering livelihood courses, men and women of the community surrounding Nazareth in Intramuros also have group activities like bible-sharing or social interaction.

time three particular areas to help improve their performance in class."

Religious instruction

Each Saturday session begins with "10 minutes of religious instruction, followed by 20 minutes of academic drills. An average of 50 kids have been attending regularly, but there is always room for more as no child is ever turned away.

Working with the underprivileged, especially in the field of Christian education, is a mission that the Hijas de Jesus fulfills zealously in the 17 countries where they are present, mostly in Asia, Latin America and Africa, where the need is greatest.

It was the dream of their founder, Mother Ma. Eugenia of Christ, in search of souls" and her spiritual daughters have dutifully followed suit.

In her own lifetime, Blessed Candida Isarve bore it was to be poor and without means.

The daughter of a Basque senator, she had to leave home as a teenager to work as a domestic help to support her family. When God called her to found a religious order at the age of 20, she could neither read nor write. But with great faith, she persevered and established the Hijas de Jesus in 1871.

Canonization rites

Today, the congregation runs 70 schools around the world, all of which are busy preparing for Mother Candida's much awaited canonization in Rome on Oct. 17. Worldwide celebrations will be held in the Philippines on Oct. 16 in Manila, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.

US infected Guatemalans with syphilis in '40s

FROM 1946 to 1948, American public health doctors deliberately infected nearly 700 Guatemalans —prison inmates, mental patients and soldiers—with venereal disease in order to test the effectiveness of penicillin.

Americans and civilians, through the National Institutes of Health, were paid for syphilis-infected prostitutes to sleep with prisoners, since Guatemalan prison officials would not cross. When the prostitutes did not succeed in infecting the men, some researchers had the bacteria poured into syringes made on their premises, have to arms, and in some cases it was injected by spinal puncture.

If the subjects contracted the disease, they were given antibiotics.

"However, whether everyone was then cured is not clear," said Jamie St. Beverly, the professor at Wellesley College who brought the experiments to light in a research paper that prompted American health officials to investigate.

The experiments were made public on Friday, when Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius apologized to the government of Guatemala and the survivors and descendants of those infected. They called the experiments "clearly unethical."

"Although these events occurred more than 64 years ago, we are outraged that such reprehensible research could have occurred under the guise of public health," the secretaries said in a statement. "We deeply regret that it happened, and we apologize to all the individuals who were affected by such inhumane research practices."

In a note to the revelation, the public health doctor who led the experiment, John C. Cutler, would have been an important role in the Tuskegee study in which black Americans were with syphilis were deliberately left untreated for decades. Late in his own life, Cutler continued to defend the Tuskegee work.

The unpublished Guatemala work was unearthed recently in the archives of the University of Pittsburgh by Beverly, a medical historian who has written two books about Tuskegee.

President Alvaro Colom of Guatemala, who first learned of the experiments on Thursday in a phone call from Clinton, called them "hair-raising" and "crimes against humanity." His government said it would cooperate with the American investigation and do its own.

The experiments are "a dark chapter in the history of medicine," said Dr. Wanda E. Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health's Modern sister for federally financed research "absolutely prohibit" infecting people without their informed consent, Collins said.

Beverly presented her findings about the Guatemalan experiments at a conference in January but nobody took notice. She said in a telephone interview on Friday in June, she sent a draft of an article she was preparing for the January 2011 issue of the Journal of Policy History to Dr. David J. Sencir, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control. He prodded the government to investigate.

In the 1940s, Beverly said, the US Public Health Service "was almost at the height of its medical power—able could be used to prevent, not just cure, early syphilis infection, whether latent blood tests for the disease could be established, what dosage of penicillin or orally-cured infection, and to understand the process of reinfection after cures."

It had difficulties growing syphilis in the laboratory, and its tests on rabbits and chimpanzees told it little about how penicillin worked in humans.

In 1946, it injected prison "research assistant" at the Penn State School for Veterinary Medicine with infectious gonorrhea, but found it hard to infect people that way.

In 1946, Cutler was asked to lead the Guatemala mission, which ended two years later, partly because of troubled "gossip" about the work, Beverly said, and partly because there was going to month penicillin, which was readily and in short supply.

Cutler would later join the study in Tuskegee, Ala., which had begun relatively innocuously in 1932 as an observation of how syphilis progressed in black male sharecroppers. In 1972, it was revealed that, even when early antibiotics were invented, doctors hid that fact from the men in order to keep studying them. Cutler, who died in 2003, defended the Tuskegee experiment in a 1993 documentary. AFP

Chile mine rescue to begin mid-October

COPIAPO, CHILE—Chile will begin rescuing 33 trapped miners later this month, several weeks earlier than planned, Mines Minister Laurence Golborne said on Friday.

Rescue workers will start reaching up the men, trapped since Aug. 5, on or before October 15, "in the second two weeks of October," Golborne said.

"It's a positive sign, and shows that some things are advancing faster than had been thought."

Chilean officials and engineers overseeing the complex operation to extract the men previously said they would not be ready to begin hoisting them to the surface until early November.

The workers, who have set a record after being trapped underground since an Aug. 5 cave-in, will be pinned one by one in a thin cage specially designed to pull them up via a narrow borehole being drilled through the earth.

Golborne said President Sebastian Piñera and the ministers—who had already made their own estimates of a mid-October rescue—had been told of the new target.

"They are very up-to-date with what's going on at the surface," Golborne told reporters.

The minister said that for now there was no need "to freeze" clues for the rescue, expressing hope that authorities would be "less tensed more precisely" in the coming days.

Golborne's announcement drew cheers from the families of the trapped miners.

"Our spirits have been supertranyed. We're really happy, above all for the men inside the mine. There's happiness all around," Illanie Segovia, the sister of one of the trapped men, told AFP outside the mine.

Golborne said the acceleration of rescue timeline came thanks to progress made by three digging machines operating shafts to the underground shelter where the miners are trapped.

The one closest to the miners is the T-130, which has burrowed its way down 572 meters, well past the half-way goal mark of 630 meters.

The other two drilling machines, the Strata 950 and the huge R51-421 oil drilling platform, were still far behind in having a 66-inch wide enough—60-75 cm—for the miners.

Meanwhile, the owners of the San Esteban mining company that runs the San Jose mine near Copiapo, were ordered by a judge not to leave the country during a 90-day investigation into a July accident in which a falling rock sends one miner's life.

The lawyer for owners Alejandro Bohn and Marcelo Kimmy claims the accident was "typical" of mining operations around the country while the lawyer for the injured miner called it the result of "negligence" by the mining company's directors.

The families of 29 of the trapped miners on Thursday filed a lawsuit against the San Esteban management and the state regulatory body the National Geological and Mines Service, for allowing the mine to reopen in 2008 despite its first collapse in 2007.

The mining company was already in financial straits when the latest cave-in took place. An appointee is due to devise a plan to either continue operations or initiate bankruptcy proceedings.

The government has asked the courts to freeze all assets of the San Esteban group—about $9.7 million—to fund rescue operations the government has been paying to the AFP

WORRIZES use a capsule (seen person inside) that will be used to rescue trapped miners from the collapsed San Jose mine earlier than planned. AP

Bin Laden uses Pakistani floods to drum up support

CAIRO—Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden called for the creation of a new relief body to help Muslims in an audiotape released on Friday, seeking to exploit discontent following this summer's devastating floods in Pakistan by depicting the region's governments as cowering.

It was the third message in recent weeks from al-Qaida figures concerning the massive floods that affected around 20 million people in Pakistan, signaling a concentrated campaign by the terror group to tap into anger over the flooding to rally support.

But while the earlier messages by subordinates were angry, urging followers to rise up, bin Laden took a softer, more humanitarian tone—apparently trying to broaden al-Qaida's appeal by presenting his group as a problem-solving protector of the poor.

"What government stands on its feet after this disaster, except those that spend on armies," Bin Laden said on the 11-minute tape entitled "Reflections on the Method of Relief Work."

"If governments against [on relief] unity one percent of what is spent on armies, they would have saved their people," bin Laden's message continued.

The top al-Qaida leader said a new "well-funded" relief organization should be created to study Muslim regions most victim of water to prevent from flooding, and to set development projects in impoverished regions and to work on farming and agriculture to counteract food scarcity.

"The famine and drought in Africa that we see, and the flooding in Pakistan and other parts of the world, with thousands dead along with millions of refugees, that's why people with hearts should move quickly to save their brothers and sisters," he said.

He urged Muslim businessmen to develop crossed agricultural land in Sudan—where Bin Laden was based in the 1990s—to boost food security in case of famine.

The audiotape was posted on Islamist militant websites, according to the US-based SITE Intelligence Group. Its authenticity could not be independently confirmed, though the voice resembled that of Bin Laden in past messages. There was no video. The tape is aired over a still photograph of a smiling Bin Laden superimposed over a pictures of a man distributing aid.

Asked about the new Bin Laden message, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said: "I'm not sure there's much to it." Pakistan would be "confused in getting the aid that is necessary from somebody that is not throwing their face to the world." AP

Musharraf announces creation of new party

MUSHARRAF AP

LONDON—Pakistan's former military ruler, Pervez Musharraf, said a meeting on Friday in one of London's most historic political clubs to announce the creation of a new political party, the All Pakistan Muslim League, and to restate his pledge to return to Pakistan from a self-imposed exile but is before unresolved obstacles scheduled for 2013.

Musharraf, a 67-year-old former general who came to power in a military coup in 1999, chose to make his announcement at the National Liberal Club, a marble-fronted, wood-paneled sanctum beside the Thames that was founded in the 19th century heyday of William Gladstone and other stalwarts of Britain's parliamentary tradition.

Musharraf, who has said he has been warned by Britain's intelligence agencies that he risks assassination by Islamic militant groups. And for all the parliamentary trappings, his remarks suggested his political thinking had altered little since he ended a standoff with Pakistan's prime minister at the time, Nawaz Sharif, with one of the extremely coups that have kept the military in control of Pakistan for long periods since its founding in 1947.

In a lengthy BBC radio interview, his main theme was that Pakistan's Army was the only institution that could save the country from its current political woes, including widespread corruption and the increasing threat of extremism in the form of President Asif Ali Zardari and the militant groups associated with the Taliban, al-Qaida and other Islamic extremist groups. He insisted that he was not trying to stage a return to power, but he appeared to support the idea of another military takeover, or at least a return to a form of "guided democracy" in which the military would have the decisive voice.

"There is a sense of desperation in Pakistan, and the place that the people go to is the military," he said. "There's nobody else to whom they can go. In Pakistan, they come in the Army headquarters, they come to the Army chief, they run there, and they ask them to act. They don't trust the politicians."

He added: "Pakistan is important. He cannot allow Pakistan to disintegrate. They cannot happen, and we Pakistanis will allow that, no Pakistani wants that. So when's the action? The Army can anyone else do it? Yes."

In choosing the name of his political party, Musharraf has followed a long tradition among Pakistani political hopefuls of touching the nationalism with the man regarded as the country's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who led the All Pakistan Muslim League in the drive for Pakistan's independence. AFP

Novartis multiple sclerosis treatment wins approval

EAST HANOVER, NJ—Novartis has announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the oral multiple sclerosis (MS) treatment Gilenya (fingolimod) 0.5 mg daily, a first-line treatment for relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis—the most common form of the disease.

The FDA approval makes Gilenya the first oral treatment tailored for relapsing forms of MS available in the US.

Hailing the approval, Nicholas Lafferty, vice president of healthcare delivery and policy research at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, said, "A new treatment option that offers significant efficacy in the convenience of a capsule is a welcome addition to the treatment options for individuals living with this chronic disease."

Gilenya reduces the frequency of MS relapses (flare-ups) and helps slow the build-up of some of the physical problems caused by MS. In clinical trials, Gilenya has a well-studied safety and tolerability profile, which has been characterized in over 2,600 clinical trial patients, some of whom are in their seventh year of treatment, with more than 4,300 patient years of experience.

"Through a novel mechanism of action, Gilenya can significantly improve clinical outcomes among patients with relapsing forms of MS," said Fred Lublin, MD, Saunders Family Professor of Neurology, The Corinne Goldsmith Dickinson Center for Multiple Sclerosis, Mount Sinai School of Medicine. "Gilenya provides significant efficacy and sustainable safety when used in accordance with approved labeling, making it a valuable advancement for relapsing MS patients and the physicians who treat them."

The Gilenya approval was based on the largest clinical trial program ever submitted to date in the FDA for a new MS drug and included combined data from clinical studies showing significant efficacy in relapsing relapses, the risk of disability progression, and the number of brain lesions observed by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a measure of disease activity, in people with relapsing forms of MS.

"We are proud to have worked successfully with the MS community over the ground goal of bringing a novel efficacious treatment to people with relapsing forms of MS," said Trevor Mundel, MD, Global Head of Development at Novartis Pharma AG. "We are actively pursuing regulatory approval in Europe and the rest of the world."

Nigeria independence day car bombs kill 10

ABUJA—Twin car bombings claimed by Nigeria's most prominent militant group MEND killed at least 10 people on Friday near ceremonies for 50 years of independence in the first such attack in the capital.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan called the blasts a "wicked act of desperation by criminal elements" and vowed, while UN chief Ban Ki-moon and Britain's government also condemned the attacks.

The explosions rocked the area near Eagle Square, but failed to halt the anniversary celebrations attended by the country's leaders and foreign delegations.

"There were various bomb explosions," police spokesperson Mohmed Abubakar told AFP. "Eight people who were bystanders were confirmed dead and three people seriously injured."

A hospital official later said two of the 22 victims brought in died while being treated. A third person was brought in dead and it was unclear whether that victim was included in the earlier police toll.

A senior police officer and a top intelligence officer were among the dead, colleagues said. Both were senior officers, said, and it appeared the attacks lay behind the attacks may have been in late in as many potential victims as possible.

"There were mass casualties at the second explosion because the first explosion drew crowds to the scene," one intelligence officer said.

Firefighters, police and bomb disposal experts rushed to the scene about 10 minutes' walk from the square, where a line of cars was destroyed and glass and blood

could be seen on the ground.

The area, near the Justice ministry and a federal court building, was filled with smoke.

"Some guys caught fire— their clothes caught fire," one witness said.

"They were running, pulling [them] off. The first car went, then while people were descending, trying to rescue the other people in the vehicles, the other one went off."

A road safety officer being treated for injuries to his torso following the blasts told AFP from his hospital bed that he believed several police officers were killed.

"I know almost five policemen behind me were dead in that blast," he said. "I was almost the one that was affected."

The car bombs followed attack threats issued on base earlier from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) militant group, one of the rebel groups claiming responsibility in a statement.

MEND has staged scores of attacks in the oil-rich Niger Delta in recent years, claiming to be fighting for a fairer distribution of oil revenue, but it was the first time they had struck in the capital.

In a statement sent by e-mail, MEND threatened "more bombings" in the independence celebrations should evacuate.

After the attacks, the militants said in a statement that "we demand the government security forces and gave them an ample warning of five days in advance for their heavy gunship."

"We blame the loss of assistance lives on the government, who are not responsible by ignoring our forewarning," it said. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

ECUADOR President Rafael Correa speaks during a meeting with South American foreign ministers in Quito, Ecuador, on Oct. 1. AP

3 police colonels accused of plot to kill Ecuador leader

QUITO—Soldiers were on patrol in Ecuador's main cities on Saturday following the arrest of three senior police officers charged with attempting to kill President Rafael Correa during a police mutiny.

The officers, all police colonels, were arrested on Friday for their role in the putsch and street clashes on Thursday that killed eight people and left 274 wounded, the prosecutor's office told AFP.

The unrest began in Quito as a protest against cuts in bonus payments linked to productivity, and spread to police stations in five other provinces.

"There is calm in the country and calm in police stations," Interior Minister Gustavo Jalkh told reporters on Friday.

The head of the national police, Gen. Freddy Martínez, resigned on Friday over the incident.

Officials did not name the three detained police colonels, but local media identified them as Manuel Bruzzoniti, Julio Cesar Cuevas and Marcelo Echeverría.

In a television interview late Friday, Correa blamed supporters of Lucio Gutiérrez — an ex-Army colonel who was president from 2003 to 2005—for the chaos, and said the mutinous police wanted to kill him.

"Their strategy to destabilize the government failed, so Plan B was to assassinate the president," Correa said.

"One of the police officers killed, a sergeant, was in my escort. The bullet was aimed at me," Correa said.

Protesting police barricaded Correa inside a hospital for some 12 hours on Thursday.

The sergeant protecting Correa was shot dead moments after soldiers and an elite police unit rescued him from the hospital.

During the unrest, mutinous police fired live rounds at his armored car, and also fired at least rubber rounds at tear gas. Correa said.

The goal was to create chaos leading to violence that would run out of control and provide an excuse for a coup. But that plan failed because the armed forces did not support the police, Correa said.

Correa said he was "deeply saddened" by the events and ordered three days of national mourning for the victims.

Only 600 police officers out of a force of some 40,000 took part in the uprising, according to Deputy Interior Minister Edwin Jarrín. AFP

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CLEMENTI playing the violin at a benefit dinner in 2009. AP

US prosecutors eye bias crime charges after teen's suicide

PISCATAWAY, NEW JERSEY—Prosecutors are considering filing bias-crime charges against two first-year college students accused of streaming online video of a homosexual encounter of a classmate who later killed himself.

The saga unfolded this week as New Jersey's Rutgers University and San became a flash point for debate after the revelation that 18-year-old Tyler Clementi jumped from a bridge on Sept. 22.

Clementi's roommate, Dharun Ravi and another student, Molly Wei, both 18, are charged with invasion of privacy with the most serious charges carrying a penalty of up to five years in prison. The two allegedly used a web cam to secretly broadcast Clementi's intimate encounter with another man.

Leading up to the suicide, someone posted on a website catering to gay men and asked advice on what to do after learning that a roommate secretly filmed a liaison. While it's impossible to be certain that that post and subsequent ones were made by Clementi, they mirror the same timeline as the alleged filming.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan said on Thursday that more charges were possible against Wei and Ravi under New Jersey's hate-crimes law.

"We will be making every effort to assess whether bias played a role in the incident, and, if so, we will bring appropriate charges," he said in a statement.

The legal question has to do with the motive. A person can be found guilty of a bias crime in New Jersey if the jury agrees that he or she committed a crime because of a belief that the victim is a member of a protected group, such as a racial or sexual minority. AP

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

■ US grabs lead in wet, busy Ryder Cup /A26

YESTERDAY big men Marlou Aquino (left) and Kai Sotto (L, who figured in several post battles before, now rose up to form a towering tandem for Meralco when the B. Boys dunkwich the guard-heavy Barangay Ginebra squad today. ALEXEY MALICSI

PBA RETURNS

Meralco, Ginebra open 36th season

By Mycaya R. Castillo

RYAN GREGORIO, even after three PBA championships, is feeling like a rookie all over again.

"There's something easier me that says I have to prove myself all over again," Gregorio told the Inquirer over the phone yesterday after wheeling up practice for his new squad Meralco, which flags it one with Barangay Ginebra today in the only match—opening the 36th season at the Antonio Coliseum.

Gregorio left Purefoods/Chicken Ace at the end of last season to start a new chapter in his coaching career and is under pressure to turn a team into a championship contender right in its maiden professional season.

"Being pressured is part of the job," Gregorio said. "As a coach, if you don't get pressured, you have no place in this business. If you don't get pressured, you're just relieving your time with basically no one."

Gregorio pulled off some trades that landed him two formidable players in Mac Cardona and Asi Taulava, and their 6 p.m. collision with the crowd-darling Gin Kings will give him a glimpse if his B.Boys would be competitive right from Day 1.

Cardona is without a doubt his go-to guy.

And though he cannot compare him to his old side-charge mate—former "big"—while with his former squad, Gregorio feels that he has a real superstar in the making in Cardona.

"That guy never ceases to amaze me," Gregorio said. "It's a safe bet that he will realize his supreme potential in this team this season. His competitive drive is a wonder to behold."

Taulava, meanwhile, has been under the weather the past few days and has not even been extended by coaching staff in practice that much. But the 6-foot-9 80" Team makeup is expected to play major minutes for the B-Boys.

"We are slowly integrating Asi into our system," said Gregorio, who admitted that he will not be making a drastic change in the way he coaches, a style that netted him three championships with Purefoods/Chicken Ace and three Coach of the Year awards from the PBA Press Corps.

"My coaching will not change," he said. "I just have a different set of players whom I will rotate, but the philosophy will be basically the same."

Ginebra, on the other hand, would like to put the 2009-2010 season behind and start off the year on a bright note.

As usual, the Gin Kings will have to overhauled guard rotation carrying the fight, with Mark Caguioa and former MVPs Jay-Jay Helterbrand and Willie Miller to shoulder some of the scoring load.

Much of Ginebra's problems the past season stemmed from rotations, or the lack thereof, as coach Jong Uichico did not have that much success juggling the talent in his roster.

"I want to see if we can play as a team and root each other," the soft-spoken mentor said in a rare message when asked to comment on his team's chances on opening day.

Eric Menk, Enrico Villanueva and Rudy Hatfield remain the most reliable big men of Uichico, while Ronald Tubid will again play a vital part in the rotation on both ends as he could again be asked to guard Cardona.

The opening ceremonies are scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m. with the league presidents to show "never before seen an television." The traditional parade of teams and their teams will be the highlights of the proceedings.

Francisco takes shot at interim crown

FRANCISCO

By Dennis G. Rivas
Inquirer Libre

MORO FRANCISCO hopes to restore Filipino pride as he battles durable Thai fighter Jirasingseth Kokietgym for the WBA interim super flyweight title next month in Thailand.

Dubbed the "Golden Fist" for his relentless mood, Francisco (19-0-1, 14 knockouts) lauds the 30-second Kokietgym, who boasts an impressive record of 52-0-1 (28 knockouts), as southpaw. Jirasingseth's victims included eight Filipino fusters. He last tasted wins Edwin Tambago whom he downed in the second round to retain his Far East Asian Boxing Federation title.

"This is what you for Dennis, who is fighting a late comeback of Filipino boxers," said Francisco's manager-cum-trainer Rolando Navarrete promoter Elmer Ancheta. "Edmo is going to fight a champion for every boxer the Philippines to be able to stop Jirasingseth's domination of Pinoy boxers."

Originally, Francisco, the WBA No. 1 contender and former world rated challenger was scheduled to fight former two-time world champion Cristian Villanueva Mexico, but the latter asked for a postponement following an injury.

"The postponement was a temporary setback...It is not my career. Jirasingseth awaits. Soon, I will move closer to get my title shot," he said.

Francisco last fought Brazzaville Nadini, in a WBA super flyweight eliminator last April 27 at the Shaolin Sports Center and won by a convincing fifth-round TKO.

Ancheta said the 26-year-old Francisco is deep in training under Boxing dela Peña at the Tanchi Elbows Boxing Gym in Agoncillo, Batangas.

Less sparring for Pacman

Roach says Manny already great 2 weeks into camp

By Ray Lauren

BAGUIO CITY—Hyperactive trainer Freddie Roach has subdued Inner rounds of sparring for Manny Pacquiao this time.

While the pound-for-pound king went through 150 to 170 rounds of sparring in the past, Roach said he'll be satisfied if Pacquiao completes 100 to 110 rounds before he fights Antonio Margarito for the vacant IBFC super welterweight title on Nov. 12 in the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"Manny already has the experience," said Roach. "He's only in his second week of training and he's got his own pace."

Pacquiao underwent his second sparring session against light middleweight Rashad Medina at the Grayman Sports Complex yesterday, and Roach said he liked what he saw.

Going away mostly for inches in height and reach to the 5-foot-11 Medina, who doesn't an impressive record of 20-2 with 19 knockouts, Pacquiao still had little trouble landing punches and upstaging our reluctant Medina pinned him on the ropes in their four-round session yesterday.

"He's looking great," said Roach, who interpreted Medina for providing the seven-time, seven-division world champion a solid, well-rounded workout.

Like Orlin Norris, who first opened with the question on four rounds on Tuesday, Medina was aggressive and threw a lot of punches as he tried to counter Margarito's brawling style.

Pacquiao, however, was equal to the challenge generally controlled and occasionally letting Medina hit him with body shots.

Having played basketball with his MP Gov. Jun Warrion in an exhibition game Friday morning, Pacquiao opened to skip his morning workouts at Baguilan Park.

Sobolevski and reinvigorated, Pacquiao had more energy left to shadow-box for more rounds, hit the speed bag, skip ropes and do his abdominal exercises.

He then regaled the crowd, which included some fishermen, when he showed his golf moves with imaginary clubs and three displaced him in jumping pressups, by mauling the ceiling of the boxing ring.

After showering and eating a late lunch, Pacquiao went down to Filmdo to honor a commitment to be with his friends, especially daughter Princess, who celebrated her birthday on Friday.

Training camp will take a break today with Pacquiao expected to return only Monday at 4 p.m. tonight.

Roach said he doesn't mind Pacquiao playing his football as "he's always played basketball since he was a kid before religion."

The part-time Trainer of the Year did admit that he sometimes "feels uneasy" as there is the probability that his prized ward might sustain an injury.

Medina was all praise for the game after the sparring session.

"I've never sparred with a guy like Pacquiao," said Medina. "I tried to get him to the ropes, but I couldn't. He's got too much experience."

Roach said he expects another sparring session light middleweight Yuriy Mercaitis, to-close in intensity.

MAKING Pacquiao's wearing sparring partners in training, giving trainer Freddie Roach little cause for worry. www.manny-pacquiao.com

SPORTSWATCH

B. Water Spa run listing ongoing

THE BLUE Water Day Resorts and Hotels continues to enroll with our annual fall fiesta in the meantime for listing of Team nobody or (02) 8818 4501 loc. 4139, E-Mail at lbenitez@bwdrh.com and bwdrh@yahoo.com.

Registration also open at Bay Inn Bay at Gateway, Ortigas Line Retail Center and Sea Adventure Mall and Bay Mall in Bicol. Origin Gateway, Retail Mobile and Quezon area.

Online listing at www.bwdrh.com E-mail to bwdrh@yahoo.com, Bay@yahoo.com. For details, e-mail us at bwdrh@bluewater-dayresorts.com.

Team are pegged at P600 (Sr), P500 (Jr) and P300 (Jr), inclusive of lunch.

Registration ends on Oct. 15 with the start on Oct. 17 at the UM field of Alabang grounds.

KINGS CHAMPS Alabang Grammar champion team poses with the trophy after the basketball tournament. (L-r) Coach Jeffrey Cariaso, Jeff Chan, Jeff Javier, Jeff Viernes, Jeff Cruz, Jeff Ramos, Jeff

Patriots test Barracudas in ABL start

[illegible]

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE Patriots test their unsealed roster against Cesafi champ Cebu Barracuda as in the Alaska Aces Basketball League bounces 2 today.

Even with only three holdovers from last season's championship run, the Patriots expect another competitive joint with locals Marcus Phelps, Greg Billones, Benedict Bumagueles, Jordan Colmer, and new import Anthony Johnson and Donald Little.

Game time is at 4 p.m. at the Ynares Sport Arena in Pasig City.

"We really need a pure center but I'm hoping that Little will come up with a big show," said Patriots coach Louie Alas.

The Barracudas, coming off a fifth place finish in the six nation tournament, stapped him from coach Chris Wells as replacement for Filipino overseas Bong Ramos.

"The team has jelled as a unit to just a little more than months," Wells, who had coaching stints in Borneo and Trinidad and Tobago, previously said. The Manila Times.

The Barracudas also feed Filipino Chester Tolentin, Bryan Namoks and Erwin White and import Chris Commons and Chris Gamet.

KNEE DEFEAT Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return against compatriot Guillen Garcia-Lopez during their semifinal match at the ATP Thailand Open tennis tournament in Bangkok. Garcia-Lopez handed the World No. 1 a rare loss, 2-6, 7-6, 6-3. AFP

RP nears top 20 after draw

BIANTEMONTE, BUSSIA—Grandmaster Wesley So trapped GM Diego Flores as the Philippines battled to a 2.5 draws endgame against and kept itself on track for a top-20 finish in the 39th World Chess Olympiad here Friday.

So was aggressive with the black pieces and capitalized on errors by the lower rated Argentinean champion and kept itself on a tussle becoming win in 49 moves of the Bound.

So gave up a knight for three pawns on the 26th move and wisely kept the 28-year old Flores on the edge of his seat with ballet moves and tactical traps.

Argentina, however, struck back with a victory by GM Fernando Brenkis over GM Eugene Torre by time forfeit in 48 moves of the Double Queen's Pawn opening.

The two other matches—GM John Paul Gomez against GM Robert Hovhannisyan and IM Richard Bitoon against GM Nikita Lobkov—ended in draws.

Bitoon salvaged a draw with the higher-rated Belgian (No. 2597) in 57 moves of the French defense despite being two pawns down, while Gomez split the point with Lebanese (No. 2668) in 44 moves of the English in almost identical positions.

The draw was enough to put the 2978 mark in a tie for 18-8 to 44th place with 12 points on five wins, two draws and three losses.

After the Samarkand Berger tiebreak, the Filipinos are in 30-8 places or six spots behind their starting rank of 37th place.

After the final two day on Saturday the Filipinos look for a better finish than their 48th place showing during the Dresden Olympiad two years ago. They are seeded No. 40 seed Estonia.

In the women's division, the Philippines absorbed a heart-breaking 1.5-2.5 defeat to Southeast Asian rival Indonesia.

The decisive point was lost when WIM Catherine Perena dropped her board two match to Alina Lenard.

Grandmaster Christine Gamache drew with WGM Irine Kharisma Sukandar to dull Italy Thirty-Jose against Gina Dwel and Jolanie Devena against Monica Shhe.

Can Baclao continue personal title streak?

By Cassie P. Tupas

AS THE surprise top pick of this year's PBA rookie draft, 6ft2½ Stevens "Stanley" Baclao knows his position, will be carefully scrutinized.

And the 6-foot-2 Baclao, the first Ateneo rookie in a not-only rebirthing the challenge of holding his own in Philippine basketball's biggest stage, but also on continuing a winning streak that started seven years ago when he was still a two-time big man playing in age-group championships contested in Rizal and Cavite.

Every year since 2003, when he was interrupted in local leagues for two straight years, Baclao has not missed out on a championship. He led West Negros University to the University titles in 2006 and the National Academic Basketball Champs crown in 2006.

The year after he transferred to Ateneo, Baclao helped propel the Eagles as the Philippine Collegiate Champions League title in 2007 advancing the former to the tournament that gathers the top collegiate teams in the country.

Known for his defensive prowess, Baclao was also part of the Ateneo squad that won back-to-back titles in 2008 and 2009, despite limited minutes, he sparkled as a wild stopper on quintets for the Philippine Patriots, who are now on to bag the inaugural Asean basketball league title.

"I can feel the pressure, but I'm ready and excited," said Baclao on the eve of tip-off for the 34th 10th season.

When Baclao makes his debut against San Miguel on Friday, he will find a familiar and comforting sight in teammate Gabby Al-Hussaini, his Ateneo-turned partner in Ateneo.

"Habak and I are like brothers," said Baclao in dispelling rumors that he has been at odds with Al-Hussaini, a rookie which some quarters believed to resulted when Air21 picked Baclao ahead of Al-Hussaini in the draft.

"I am happy for him and I know he is happy for me, "he added.

The 6-foot-7 Al-Hussaini, himself, said he has moved on from the incident to the draft.

The Express, who have lost two players in recent years due to what was perceived as lopsided trades, signed the two rookie big men to ensure teams there your deals and promised to make them the cornerstones of the rebuilding process in the franchise.

The rookie found himself today to have no college teammate as one of my teammates in the past because that surely happens," Al-Hussaini said.

Baclao acknowledged that it will be tough sweeping his mentor from the barangay and the collegiate leagues to the PBA. But he also knows his defensive role in guns will eventually pay off.

"I will continue to work hard, improve my game and do whatever it takes to help my team win," said Baclao.

Busy sked for Tams after UAAP collapse

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN EASTERN University hopes to move on from its UAAP Finals debacle by gearing up for two upcoming tournaments over as coach Glenn Capacio's fans maintain unconfusion.

The Tamaraws, the top-ranked squad from the eliminations, will face Cebu powerhouse Ateneo Blue Eagles, each-redemption in the University Games in Dumaguete City in three weeks and in the Philippine Collegiate Championship League next month.

"We're taking a break for at least a week, then we'll go to the Dalgonians," said FEU athletic director Mark Molina. "We'll only field our younger players in the Dalgonians, but the teams will play in the Championship League."

The Tamaraws have yet to meet with Capacio, who had been confined in a hospital since suffering from hypertension midway through Game 1 of the best-of-three men's basketball title series last Thursday.

FEU's assistant mentors took over in the final two quarters as Capacio was rushed to Medical City after his blood pressure shot up late in the first half.

"He was supposed to be out of the hospital yesterday afternoon[illegible] after several routine tests," said Molina.

Molina said, though, the team is still unsure [illegible] Capacio would still call the shots in the Tamaraws' next two tournaments.

The side favorite Tamaraws absorbed an embarrassing 72-69 blowout loss in Game 1, before the elite Eagles wrapped up the series in Game 2, 83-82.

"Every year we're a contender, but I guess we just lacked championship experience and drive," said winningest Saul Sanga, the only player graduating from FEU's roster.

ALASKA ROOKIES

Espiritu, Hayes may pull off a surprise

By Mark Giongco and Colens Flores

THE PBA rookie spotlight has been dirming on the pitted three.

The six rounds so far talk has been centered on how No. 1 pick Stanley Baclao and his former Ateneo classmate Rabeh Al-Hussaini and Letoni's Jay Camuma...the top three overall picks—just might topsurpass the Air21 Express, Ateneo role bringer tomorrow who might pull off a surprise.

Elmer Espiritu, the former Ateneo ace of the East ace selected fourth overall by Alaska, scored an one in making a good impression on the Aces' taskmaster coach Tim Cone.

"He is a super athlete," Cone recently told the bosses after the team's arduous practice session. "He has the most talented athlete we've had since Bong Alvarez."

That's how high the confidence Cone has in Espiritu, who has the ability to play multiple positions on to his lanky but athletic 6-foot-4 frame.

But Espiritu knows that it takes a lot of hard work for him to earn his minutes in the pro level especially with a star freak off a Fonte Conference championship.

"Back in college, I was first a role player so the stats man, so it's okay if I don't get enough playing time," said the 24-year old Espiritu, a former Warriors outburst known for his defensive skills apart from his high flying acts. "I'll work my way up there."

ESPIRITU

CONE

An intrepid past in the finishers' title bid this season, Hayes describes his continuing experience of having to compete in an established ball club.

"I'm the leader of the team when I'm playing with Abe. Here with Alaska, I'm the one learning from the veterans, it's very different," shared Hayes. "It's hard, but it's okay with me because I'm lucky to be given this opportunity."

Espiritu, too, aims to make the most out of his pro debut.

"I'll contribute more defensively and I have to be aggressive all the time, that's what coach Tim wants to see from me," said Espiritu, a five-time UAAP Mythical team member and Defensive Player of the Year.

Immediately after the interview, Espiritu returned to practice and hit a couple of mid-range jumpers, the same old jump shots he honed's down during a UE stint.

And right here and there, Cone could only look and say, "he's very very talented."

MERALCO president and chief executive officer Manny V. Pangilinan (right) signs a symbolic check for basketball scholars Kim Mee Cinco and Rasar Anno

Meralco tries to provide beacon of hope

THE MERALCO B-Boys hope to light up not just the PBA scoreboard but also the lives of promising basketball players.

Aside from building a powerhouse squad led by reporter Mark Cardona, the B-Boys got another good thing selling off court with their sports advocacy program.

"It's not just about excellence in basketball," said Meralco Chairman Eugenio Lopez. "It's really about inspiring people, that eventually basketball could be their end-their-term line' kicker and of poverty."

And the high school standouts like Rasar Anno of the San Beda Red Cubs and Kim Cinco of the Far Eastern University of the Philippines Junior Maroons, basketball indeed makes their more hopeful.

Anno and Cinco, named as Meralco's basketball scholars, received P50,000 each as financial assistance during the event's team launch at the Meralco Theater grounds.

The two 17-year olds came from humble beginnings with Anno hoping to give his family in Davao City a better life and Cinco also wishing for the same after graduating up under the care of his grandmother.

"This is part of our president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan's advocacy to help open the development of the youth through sports," Meralco's PBA team governor Ramon Segismundo said during the launch also attended by Meralco's PLDT and Smart counterparts.

But more than just helping young and talented athletes, the Bolts also extended their support to Carlos Morales, the charitable institution helping the marginalized sector.

At the same launch, Morales donated P50,000 to the fledgling operations of the proceeds from the Bolts pre-chased in the Bolts' games.

So as the team defends its the PBA today, the Bolts not only aim to relive the intensity and glory brought by the old Meralco Bucky Schwartz Cup's mainly of basketball legends Robert Jaworski, Francis Arnaiz and Big Boy Reyson.

The Bolts also hope to bring inspiration and all-round...Australia's H. Payo

Orduna leads RP kart charge

JOSEPH OF the Year Joey Orduna will set his rookie sights to represent four Philippines when the Rotax/Zhao stadium competition in Rotax Max Challenge Grand Finals slated October 15 to 17 in Lonato, Italy.

Orduna was included in the short-list of players handpicked by motorsports godfather Johnny Tan for the competition event.

"This is a big opportunity to show the world that Filipinos are equally talented in the field of karting," said Tan, "We're the only Filipino, Philippine champion, it is

ORDUNA

just apt for Orduna to spearhead the country's 6th campaign this prestigious competition."

Joey who will be vying for the World ROK Junior crown, was grateful for the trust given by Tan.

"I am competing against the world's best in the World ROK Championship is a big challenge but I'll give it the best I can," said Orduna.

Now a 9th-grade student of International School, Joey has been partially inactive in the local karting scene as he's now more involved in baseball, rugby and tennis.

Sunday SPORTS

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US grabs lead in wet, busy Ryder Cup

DARKNESS falls on the grouping duo of Tiger Woods (top photo, right) and Steve Stricker, while rain rerouds Phil Mickelson (right photo, right) and Chesto Johnson, as the elements kept the American and European Ryder Cup teams from mounting any significant charge. AFP PHOTOS

NEWPORT, WALES—The United States had the early edge at the Ryder Cup, grabbing a 3½-2½ lead after the rain-delayed opening foursomes.

Jeff Overton and Bubba Watson gave the Americans their first full point, battering Paul McGinley and Darren Clarke 3 and 2 victory over Luke Donald and Padraig Harrington. Steve Stricker and Tiger Woods won the Americans into the lead with a 2-up win over Ian Poulter and Sven Fisher.

This is a long day at Celtic Manor because of Friday's rain delay which lasted more than seven hours. And 12 minutes after Stricker and Woods wrapped up their win, the first of six alternate-shot matches is scheduled to tee off. If the weather holds, a third session with two alternate-shot matches and four more foursomes will begin in the late afternoon.

Earlier, more than 11 hours after the matches began in a steady rain at Celtic Manor, they ended in darkness with Overton making a 20-foot birdie putt to square his fourballs match against Woods on a green illuminated by a large video board.

One problem. They were only on the 16th hole.

Many of the four matches in the opening session finished. Captains never even turned in the lineup for the four alternate-shot matches scheduled for the afternoon.

The rain did more than suspend play for more than seven hours. It exposed a scoreboard malfunction with the Americans already had a birdie on the par-5 ninth hole, and Donald will half a chance to halve the hole with a 6-foot putt.

Europe was leading only in the first match, with Luc Westwood and PGA champion Martin Kaymer 1 up through 11 holes over Masters champion Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson. Europe won 1-up through six holes when Mickelson left a jelly.

Ultimately, the rain-soaked and mud-splattered three new only four hours of golf, some of it quite dopey given the conditions. Woods took four shots to reach the first green. Europe won that hole with a par when Ross Fisher's tee shot was lodged in the lining of a fan's umbrella. He was given a free drop and was able to hit onto the green.

Volunteers armed with squeegees were constantly mopping up huge puddles across the landing areas in the fairways and on every green, until they could no longer keep up with all the water.

The entertainment didn't let up even when the golf was suspended. If nothing else, it gave the US team time to do a little shopping in the merchandise tent to get another embarrassing moment.

The Americans looked soaked in their navy blue rain suits with white stripes, and there was a reason for that—they didn't work. Pavin never explained why it took until Friday at the Ryder Cup to figure this out, or what specifically was wrong with them.

"My suit was fine. I had no problems—[no] I wasn't playing," Pavin said. "They just didn't perform the way they were supposed to perform, and so our jam went out and bought some more."

Team officials bought 20 suits from the same company that outfitted a dry-looking European team—although they weren't even necessary when play eventually resumed. AP

FIBA ASIA

RP youth finishes fifth

THE COUNTRY'S youth dribblers poured their best finish in seven memory after crushing host nation Yemen, 97-48, Friday night to clinch fifth place in the 15th Asia U-18 championships.

The win, which avenged the Filipino boys' 78-69 defeat to the Yemenis in the classification phase, allowed the squad to notch its best possible finish after failing to make it to the semifinals. The Philippines also bettered its finish two years ago in Tehran, where the country placed seventh.

Jaimilene Bandolin of Philippine executive services Inc., which sold it wins the Philippine youth team's best finish in the last 10 years.

"It was a different day and a different game altogether," coach Eric Altamirano said in a message to the boosters. "We just wanted to leave everything on the floor."

Altamirano acknowledged the support of the fans saying "we had a nice crowd supporting us here. We wanted to leave Yemen with some happy memories for them."

Joshua Alabisa scored seven of his game high 18 points in the first quarter as the Filipinos raced to a 23-10 lead.

Shooting guard Kiefer Ravena, son of former PBA star Bong Ravena, finished with 15 points, the same output by Raphael Rosal, son of Alaska Aces assistant coach Joel Rosal, who also chipped in nine rebounds.

Cris Tchanda and Jeth Rosario lined 10 points apiece while another Ateneo bing, son of ex-pro Bobi, had eight points to go along with six rebounds, five assists and two steals.

So dominant were the Filipinos that Altamirano had the luxury of giving all his players at least eight minutes of playing time.

The Philippines beat Yemen in every department of the game dominating the rebounds 48 to 28 and scoring 38 points in the paint to Yemen's 26.

The Filipinos were fouled often as they drove to the basket making 19 of 28 free throws to Yemen's 9 of 12 and shooting 33 percent on a 36-of-68 performance from the field to their opponents' 28 percent on 19-of-72 shooting. The Filipinos also made 6-of-14 triples while Yemen could only manage 6-of-34. Ronnie Bacilio

THE NATIONAL youth team will return home with a respectable finish

Shooting blasts POC for snubbing trap bets

By Cedell P Tupas

SHOOTING CHIEF Art Manapat yesterday blasted the Philippine Olympic Committee for excluding the coach trap shooting team from the Philippine team Games roster despite surpassing the qualifying standard for the quadrennial meet set in Guangzhou, China, in November.

"I cannot understand why they have been excluded when they surpassed the criteria set by the POC itself," Manapat told the boosters in a phone interview yesterday. "We are enforcing them because they qualified it."

Manapat said the trap team composed of former Olympians Joshua Dionisio, Eric Ang and Rogen Yopuco amassed a total of 335 points during the World Cup held in Beijing last April, which beat the gold medal score of 327 in Doha four years ago.

Not only was the trap team ignored by the POC, Manapat said no reason was given why the shooters were not included in the 49 lineup that the POC submitted to the Guangzhou organizing committee last Wednesday.

Incidentally among the names submitted to the Asiad were 48 members of the two dragon boat squads and 12 players from the women's basketball team, who have yet to justify their places in the RP team.

The dragon boat bets still have to undergo performance trials at the Lt Mon river on Oct. 9 while the rugbyellos won't a gold medal performance in the Series championship starting on Oct. 24 to make it to the Asiad.

Only three—Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, Mark Montecca and Jason Valdez—of the 11 shooters maligned by the shooting body were approved by the POC for the Asiad.

The trap match breaking the Asiad criteria was never mentioned when RP chief of mission Joey Romasanta earlier hinted for the inclusion only of Tupacis.

Romasanta said Manapat is dismissed as having a team because of his better chances in the competition. Romasanta said Tupacis was eventually catches off the list since it's unfair for him "to carry the weight" of the two other members. With a report from Mari Anthony Rosca

Bata, three others whip Pattaya pool foes

BEHIND "SHOE" Reyes and three other Filipino stars whipped their respective rivals recently at the start of the 2006 Pattaya 9-ball invitational tournament at the Royal Garden Plaza in Pattaya, Thailand.

Reyes was in cloudy form as he whipped Thailand's Kompol Saenrung, 9-1, the same score posted by Lee Van Corteza in crushing Britain's Steven Kerr last Saturday.

World Nool Masters champion Dennis Orcollo roared Ophas Siwanmanat of Thailand, 9-3, while Alonso, the 2006 World champion Encharon of Thailand, 6-4; Fu Chi Pei of Chinese-Taipei, who whipped Busaki McCaskill of Ireland, 9-2, Tsuyoshi Senki of Japan, who ousted Surat Muklamcoone of Thailand, 9-3; Lin Sin Chung of Chinese-Taipei, who ousted David Webb of England, 9-2; and Yasuo Tokuno of Japan, who tripped Yannick Beaudin of France, 9-4.

The winner will pocket the top prize of 300,000 baht which is just over P428,000 while the runner-up will receive 50,000 baht or about P72,300. Rosario Santillan

Lyceum, CEU eye WNCAA crowns

RIGHT CENTRO Escolar University and powerhouse Lyceum will go for the cloudeer today in the 41st WNCAA senior basketball and volleyball finals at the St. Scholastica's College gym.

Lyceum will try to snare a fifth straight basketball crown against College of St. Benilde at 2:30 p.m. while its volleyball squad eyes an unprecedented 11th straight title versus feisty Technological University at 5:30 p.m.

CEU battles Philippine Women's in the Senior B basketball Game 2 at 12 noon and in the Junior B volleyball finals at 4 p.m.

The midgets basketball semifinal round of the league being supported by official media partner Philippine Daily Inquirer also starts today with De La Salle-Zobel taking on St. Paul College-Pasig at 9 a.m. and Mapua clashing nonetheless Dwarfs at 10:30 a.m. for the other finals seat.

BIG LINE-UP: Boxing legend Pacuiao (left) leads the ceremonial toss for the 14th Ms. Louis Sino Temple Boxing Association (Senior) Open Championships at the Sto. Louis East Grand Mall Boxing Center in Cainta, Rizal. The tournament started yesterday and joining Pacuiao in the opening ceremonies were (from left) Frankie Uy, president of Elenias Ba Tacoco, president of the Pasig Boxing Association; Mitsy Tiongco (not seen), Dyshaco as president and vice president, respectively, of the Philippine Boxing Congress; and Steve Robles, president of the Philippine Senior Bowlers. The games will be held every day up to Oct. 7. ARMANDO MANALO

ALL TOP CHOICES
Al Sasha Asia Pork

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
Sunday BIZ

Ramon Recto: The 'accidental' miner

THE ENGINEER in colorful native garb

By Kitz T. Olchondra

MACVENTURES MINING and Development Corp. president Ramon A. Recto does not look it, but he has toiled in the mining industry for 47 years.

Curiously, his background did not seem to predispose him to becoming a miner.

According to Recto, he grew up in Tondo, well away from mining communities.

First job

He was educated through the public school system and eventually graduated from the University of the Philippines with degrees in Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, one after the other.

While serving in his first job, he completed another degree—Master in Industrial Management.

So how did he get into mining? "By accident," he says.

Living 'the life'

After college, he worked with the Industrial Development Center, a joint venture of UNIDO and the International Economic Council. He later went on to join the Philippine Information Agency in Malacañang.

Back then, Recto says, he already thought it was The Life. His salary went from P150 to P450 per month. The icing on the cake was that he could play football in Malacañang's grounds.

But then, there was the "accident." He was asked to meet with the officials of the Philippine Iron Mines, and right there, he was offered P900 a month if he could start right away.

It was no sell-job, however. He, who knew nothing about mining except what he had read, was asked to look into a seaside mining prospect that was to be developed through underground drilling. He walked into a tunnel with his guide, deeper and deeper into the earth, until, finally, he asked how far they were from the shore. They were 300 meters beneath the seabed.

"So I asked the guide, 'If this tunnel collapses, what will happen?'

"He said, 'We'll drown, of course.' I was so scared," Recto says with a chuckle.

He completed the study, however, and stayed with the Philippine Iron Mines from 1967 to 1969. Then iron prices crashed, and he had to look for other prospects.

It was then that Lepanto Consolidated Mining was in its early years. Recto joined the company until 1992. It was also around this time that he led the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, as past president from 1989 to 1991 and then as chairman from 1991 to 1993.

Supply Oilfield

After leaving, he founded his own company Supply Oilfield Services Inc.

Around 2007, just as the US sub-prime market was about to spark a chain of recessions globally, he joined Macventures. Some after brushing up the contacts with Anton Alfonsus, who wanted him to lend his expertise in leading mining companies.

Over time, Recto says, he came to love the hard work and the accomplishment in turning a mining venture into a success.

This, while his career in mining started out by what he terms as an accident, his methods in prospecting and running a mine leave no room for chance.

"I am proud of two things: I don't bribe officials, and all the mining companies I've led are responsible miners," he says. "Everything is planned well and investments are put where they should be."

The funny thing is that, now, he is not getting a single centavo for his work. Well, at least not yet.

All the money on his mind for the conveyors, he says, "goes to the ground." In other words, in exploration and development works. The company's top-level officials have agreed to waive their re-

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LAPANDAY FOODS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that Branch 14 of the Regional Trial Court in Davao City issued in Civil Case No. 33936-2010 entitled "Lapanday Foods Corp. v. Hijo Employees Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative 1 (HEARBCO-1) et al." an Order dated 24 September 2010 to compel HEARBCO-1, its directors, officers, members and other agents to comply with the Banana Sales and Marketing Agreement ("BSMA") and the Banana Purchase Agreement ("BPA") between Lapanday Foods Corp. ("Lapanday") and HEARBCO-1. The Order mandates as follows:

a. the defendant HEARBCO-1, its board of directors, and all its ARB members, officers, agents and all persons acting under their authority to EXCLUSIVELY SELL its Class A and B bananas to plaintiff, in compliance with the BSMA and BPA, and to IMMEDIATELY DELIVER to plaintiff's packing houses only, to the exclusion of any other packing houses inside or outside the farm, all harvested bananas for classification and sale to plaintiff Lapanday Foods Corporation;

b. the defendant HEARBCO-1, its board of directors, and all its ARB members, officers, agents and all persons acting under their authority to CEASE AND DESIST from selling, transacting, and/or delivering any and all of their harvested bananas to any third party-buyers, until after the bananas are classified as rejects by the plaintiff in its packing houses, pursuant to the BSMA and BPA;

c. any judicial or natural persons or their agents or representatives, to CEASE AND DESIST from buying, transacting and/or receiving the harvested bananas of defendants, until after they are classified as rejects by the plaintiff in its packing houses, pursuant to the BSMA and BPA;

d. the defendant HEARBCO-1, its board of directors, all its ARB members, officers, agents and all persons acting under their authority and any and all persons acting in their behalf or upon their orders or directive to grant plaintiff the right to access to and from the farms in order to perform rehabilitation works and other activities pursuant to the BSMA, BPA and General Framework of Farm Rehabilitation, and to CEASE AND DESIST from committing acts that would impair plaintiff's free access to defendant's farm; and

e. the Sheriff of this court to oversee and supervise the harvesting of the subject bananas to ensure their delivery to plaintiff-applicant's packing houses. For this purpose, he may call on the assistance of the Philippine National Police and other enforcement agencies.

Lapanday shall exercise all its legal rights and remedies to protect its interests and entitlements pursuant to the Order and its banana supply contracts with HEARBCO-1, including the filing of appropriate criminal and civil cases against any party who shall unlawfully purchase bananas from HEARBCO-1 in violation of the Order and LFC's contractual rights.

For information and guidance.

29 September 2010, Davao City

Lapanday Foods Corporation

WHAT ARE the odds of a child in America growing up to play quarterback on a Super Bowl winning team? I'm not sure, but I'm guessing the chances are less than one in a million. Now, what are the odds of two brothers playing quarterback for the Super Bowl winning team in back-to-back years, maybe one in a billion?

Yet, that's exactly what happened for brothers Peyton and Eli Manning.

Peyton was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2007 Super Bowl after leading the Indianapolis Colts to the championship. A year later, Eli led the underdog New York Giants to a come-from-behind victory in Super Bowl XLII and likewise was recognized as the game's Most Valuable Player.

How do you account for the stunning success of the Manning brothers?

1) A mentor to emulate

Eli and Peyton Manning attribute much of their success to their father Archie, himself a professional quarterback for 13 seasons.

As boys, Archie taught Eli and Peyton the rudiments of throwing the football along with the teamwork associated with being a quarterback.

While his sports-specific lessons surely left an impression on his boys, Archie's life lessons made the greatest impact. His humanity, work ethic, and exemplary character are displayed in the Manning household for his children to see.

2) The will to compete

Like any highly successful athletes, Eli and Peyton share a fierce competitive drive. Family dynamics fanned into the equation when explaining the Manning's spirited endeavors.

Eli and Peyton, along with their older brother Cooper, competed off against one another in countless contests: one-on-one basketball games, ping pong tournaments, etc. Their good-natured competition to be the best in the family toughened the Manning's mentally and disciplined their athletic skills.

3) The willingness to learn

In addition to their prodigious athletic talents, both Peyton and Eli Manning are diligent students of the game. They scrutinize their performances on video looking for ways to improve, and they spend hours watching tape of their opponents searching for weaknesses to exploit. Their knowledge of the game gives them an edge and cultivates their success.

In this regard, they take after their father, himself a high school valedictorian dedicated to cultivating his mind.

As you contemplate your leadership of businesses, take a cue from the Mannings and consider these questions:

Who are the leaders in your life that you turn to for guidance and mentoring?

Which areas of friends are pushing you to excel? Does are you encouraging them to become better leaders?

Do you have a plan for personal growth? In what ways can you improve yourself by taking advantage of learning opportunities?

(The inquirer, call Inquirer Leadership Consultancy at 6872614 or 7804281. The website is www.inquirerleaders.com.ph.)

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

OFWs find peace of mind in remittance provider

MANY OVERSEAS Filipino workers would agree that peace of mind... more of all others if someone they family's welfare—is priceless. The money remittances they send to loved ones do not simply represent monetary value; they comprise the lifeline and emotional bond that keeps them connected to their loved ones. That's why having a reliable remittance company gives them a great sense of assurance and security.

On the other hand, the billions of pesos in remittances sent by OFWs are necessary to keep the Philippine economy strong. The efforts of the many global economic woes that ail the country, in fact, were cushioned by OFW remittances. Knowing the importance of OFW remittances to our beneficial and industrial life, many companies, many LBC launched last year its newest money remittance service, known as "LBC Peso Padala."

For 60 years, it's quietly been known that LBC name as the country's leading and reliable and safe courier service. Today, LBC Peso Padala builds on that solid reputation with important service that not only the family life of OFWs but also strengthens the national economy as well.

LBC Peso Padala money remittance service makes it feasible to transfer money sent from any LBC branch in the Philippines to the receiving LBC branch in a number of countries. LBC Peso Padala is also available in these countries: United States (California), Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and Australia.

For OFW Jerome Magallang, who works as a construction boss in Malaysia, LBC has been a reliable partner for two consecutive years. He finally "Nonsaka ya we have to be wise regarding the service that we use to send our hard-earned money. LBC has proven their reliability and credibility may back to the time of my father, who is also an OFW like me," he says.

Another OFW, domestic helper Hazel Bacolgima of Singapore, depends on LBC Peso Padala whenever her loved ones need urgent financial assistance as soon as possible.

Bacolgima adds that LBC Peso Padala is also the wise choice for OFWs because of its competitive exchange rate, as well as for its reasonable and affordable service charge.

At OFWs' areas, LBC Peso Padala, sends money remittances fast, safe and reliably. It's as though the sender himself or herself handed the cash to the recipient. This is how Aimee Hernandez, an assistant store manager in California, describe her experience when sending money through LBC Peso Padala.

"The money I send is transferred in a matter of seconds, and ready for pick up at any local LBC branch," says Aimee, who has been using LBC Peso Padala for four years. She regularly sends the money to her mom in Iloilo City.

With LBC Peso Padala's fast and reliable remittance service and its reasonable exchange rates, our modern-day heroes abroad can find peace of mind, knowing that their loved ones at home will have no problems receiving the much-needed financial assistance.

FLIGHT attendant Ayra Cabigo, striking a pose on the Great Wall of China, says she finds the services of LBC Peso Padala to be quite convenient.

Ramon Recto: The 'accidental' miner

From page B1

operative salaries until the venture goes commercial.

"When we started out, we amassed P180 million from friends who invested into the company. You could not go anywhere to borrow money. My assistance to them was this: I have enabled it, put my own money in it because I think it's a good matter, and I am not pressing a salary until we make money. None of us are getting a single centavo," he says.

Shareowners, in fact, does not have a pinpoint office yet. The company is using the office of Ajenor, which is acquired.

"It's a mom-and-pop oh people, and I have nowhere to eat." he says with a laugh. "It can be embarrassing, sometimes, but what can you do? I don't want to put down money in a deposit for an office because I'm short on money."

All the current funding, Recto insists, should go toward mine exploration and development.

"The moment I stop, hopefully by late next month or early November, then I will think about getting an office," he says.

Besides serving as president of this exploration and oil supply Oilfield Services, Recto presently heads CME Technology Philippines Inc. as chair and president, SOS Affiliated Companies as president, Frontline Philippines Inc. as chair. He is also director of Crown Equities Inc.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010 SundayBiz B1

When brands become household names

Flattery turns into double-edged sword

By Arnelle S. Tayao

PERHAPS IT'S a cultural trait, but Filipinos have a habit of making generic names out of brand names such as "Colgate (watch paste) na Close up," "Nabisco (plastic tupperware) or "Jus Xerox" (photocopy).

Then, there's Scotch tape—how many Filipinos are actually aware that "Scotch" is a 3M brand, and not a category of adhesive tape?

"I think when people make a brand a generic term, it's a form of flattery because it is nothing brand, a strong business," says marketer J. Nuber, 3M Stationery Products Division vice president and general manager, at a recent lunch with members of the press.

But it's flattery that's a double-edged sword, since a brand that's become too generic could easily be ignored by consumers for cheaper alternatives.

"We also want to make sure that we protect our brand, to make it unique to 3M," Nuber says. "We do this through our communications, our website and at point of sale, with our display." One such effort 3M does, for example, is to shelf its products separately from other brands in National Book Stores.

"The local situation is challenging because they (consumers) don't differenti-

ate," adds P&S Duke, 3M Philippines president and managing director. "That's something we have to go after."

80th year

The Scotch brand is celebrating its 80th year in business this year by relaunching its old-school packaging. In 1930, when cars were the latest in fashion, 3M engineer Richard Drew came up with an idea to make the painting easier for workers—the masking tape. "At least five workers needed to hold a big sheet of paper to cover the bottom half so they could paint the top [before masking tape was conceived]," Nuber says.

Shortly after, during the Great Depression in the 1930s, Drew came up with the Scotch transparent tape's ancestor, the cellulose tape. The clear tape was invented to seal food wrappers to keep out moisture.

From there, people discovered more and more ways to use the tape (even Post-It Note II saw great use for Scotch tape), and ever since its creation, more than 400 kinds of adhesive tapes have been sold under the brand. The iconic "snail" dispenser, too, was created by Scotch in the 1930s.

15-percent rule

And thanks to Scotch's 15 percent rule, company scientists are coming up with even more products. Every day, Scotch customers can spend 15 percent of their time to work on things other than what's assigned to them, just to come up with new inventions. Some are introduced right away to consumers, while others are shelved and sold only when the market sees a need for the product.

Scotch also pays special attention to their products designs, with women as their largest customer base. That, plus conforming to trends and regulations, also result in new products. The tapes contain eco-friendly materials, adapt to different climates and use water-based adhesives, as opposed to other brands that use solvent-based adhesives. "We also use a lot more recycled materials in our dispensers," Nuber adds.

These are examples that keep Scotch 10 steps ahead of the competition, or the "copycats," which have ridden along with the adhesive tape brand's continuing success. "What we try to do is innovate, and they (copycats) just copy (what we make)," Nuber says.

Rubbery shawarma turns . . .

From page B4

dancy has been known for in decades past," Ong says.

On the other hand, the bags and the paper bags are made by Conrad Inilings Pajarito Time Printers.

"It was by mere accident how we discovered them," Ong relates. "It was the last Sunday of our TAV fair exam that time and we were looking for someone who could print their faces on shirts we were planning to wear. We didn't know that we were already headed to GC Pajarito Time Printers."

According to the Starbo' site, GE Pajarito Time Printers was established in August 2008, taking into consideration the skills of the men and women of Pajarito. They do linen handfill screen printing to eco-canvas bags and aprons.

"We realized that they share the values of Starbo, developing the skills of marginalized communities in the hopes of championing what is truly Filipino. With that, we offered them to do the bags for us," Rosemarie says.

It is the Starbo team's source of pride in any that all their products are made in the Philippines to every potential customer who inquires about their production method. The group believes that Starbo could not have been made if not for the perfect execution of their partner factory in Marikina and the GE Pajarito Time printers.

Today, Starbo team enjoys the fruit of its passion and hard work.

"Since we introduce Starbo in November 2009 to date, the feedback we've gotten has been inspiring to say the least," Ong says. "They're encouraged to and complimented us at the point where we are constantly on the lookout for better improvements, whether in terms of products, services and relationships."

Starbo keeps the market fresh by trying to constantly go out of its comfort zone. "However, while we recognize and take advantage of trends in the industry, we believe in safeguarding the timeless strain of style which allows for greater market impact and retention. We don't want to be too fashionable. Especially the shoes have to blend with the corporate look," Ong says.

Although Starbo can already be bought through its online stores like www.starbo.ph, its core and heartbeat lies page. Instead and distributors—Pillar 1 Girl Shirts in Limketkai in Cagayan de Oro and Ayala Center and 3M in Cebu, and Canadagarim in Gaisano mall in Davao—the group is still trying to get a space on a mall.

"We want to tap the market that's not into online shopping or going to bazaars, yes," Ong says.

Soon, Starbo is coming out with men's shoes as well.

"We saw the opportunity when a lot of our customers' boyfriends are already asking where are still release men's shoes. And when we do (let our customers know), we have that market as a lot of local brands that have men's shoes. So men usually end up buying imported shoes that usually cost P5,000 and above," Ian says.

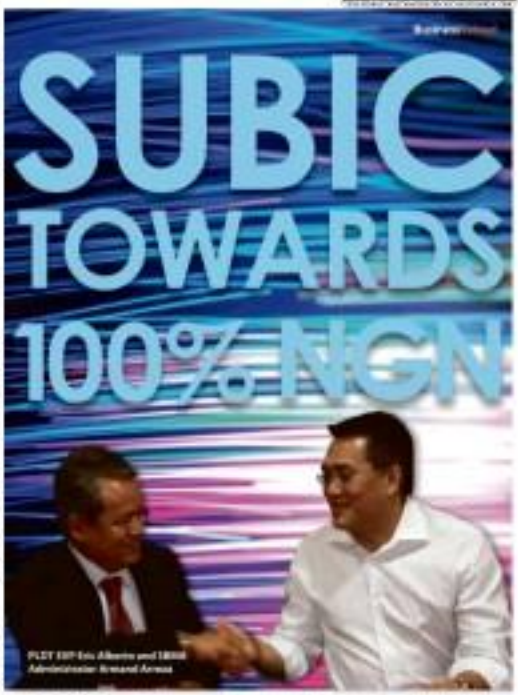
Starbo team revealed that there have been requests for maternity-daughter ties, too.

"Starbo aims to be in the pursuit of the perfection of a new lifestyle concept. This was something we were truly interested in so we set about developing our ideas into reality," Ong says. "Although none of us had family businesses we were exposed to, starting from scratch and running your own are a totally different story."

The group proudly says that they are very hands-on in their business. "We do not have any employees so we do basically everything," Rosemarie says.

"Carrying boxes of shoes and getting dirty with the deluge of customers during 'bazaars' can be very stressful, we forget—do not really lose what you do," Lemuel says. "Customers run and will know or feel if you're just into the business because you really believe in the concept, or if you're just in it for profits. You have soul passion, or lack of both, for any venture will really show. Be sure you deal with customers, so it's best to get into something that's close to your heart."

And on what advice the Starbo users can give? "Be patient. Take this from a group of people who initially wanted to open a threaded-tee stand. Your ideas will come to you when you least expect them to, and sometimes when you are in the edge of despair. The important thing is to be open to ideas always. Don't settle. In mediocrity because you'll never know when you'll have that chance to be great instead of just being good," Ong says. "And when your passion and hard work pay off, don't forget to give back to your community, your customers and country."



PLDT EVP Eric Alberto and SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza

SBMA well on its way to getting PLDT "fibered"

In every way possible, Subic Bay, one of the country's best ports and investment hubs available, is gearing for a fresh infrastructure and capabilities revamp. Its fabled cargo handling facilities are up for reinvestment and upgrades, the first in a decade. There are even more investors willing to jump in, as world-class infrastructure commitments are delivered on.

One of the key improvements in the infrastructure picture is the eventual total upgrade of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) to PLDT's fiber-optic Next Generation Network (NGN). In PLDT Senior Vice President and Head of CSMG Eric B. Alberto's words, development at SBMA hinges on "capacity first before opportunity".

"We would like to applaud Administrator Arreza and his staff for doing a marvelous job in Subic, and in spite of the global economic turmoil, they managed to generate P6B in investment last year. We would like to be a partner to further those investments. We will careen investment programs by developing infrastructure in growth areas for particular industries where Subic will be.

According to Alberto, the Subic-Clark corridor will be one of the key areas of future growth and development for the national economy over the next 5 to 10 years. As Clark is already fully PLDT "fibered", Subic is following close.

Arreza agreed with Alberto's views and projections adding that there are specific plans for further development. "We have recently cleared a 17-hectare area which we would like to develop into an IT park and I think having the right infrastructure would help Subic attain that objective," the SBMA administrator said.

He also expressed optimism that SBMA's partnership with PLDT would continue to be a long and fruitful one, originating back to 1995 when PLDT was one of Subic's first investors. "We have already begun to promote Subic and Clark as the same destination so that as Eric said, any spill-over growth between the two would certainly benefit the entire region. I'm very happy that PLDT is our partner in this."

Subic Bay and Clark are now key areas of growth for the next decade.

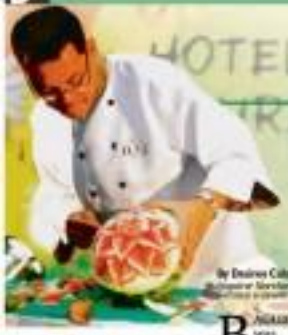
Shown in photo from left to right: PLDT VP & Head of Corporate Business Solutions Victor Teh; PLDT Relationship Manager Alfredo Contreras; PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Solutions & Development & Quality Management Sandra Quiaño; Subic Bay CEO Rowena Domingo; PLDT VP & Head of Corporate Relationship Management Renato Castañeda; PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group Nestor Ramos; PLDT Subic'tel Chairman - PLDT EVP and Head of Customer Sales and Marketing Group Ernesto Alberto; SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza; Senator Pres Pimentel Jr.; SBMA COO for Business and Investment Department for ICT Virgil Lamangan; PLDT Vendam Administrator Ignacio Sandia and PLDT VP & Head of Corporate Marketing Services Luigi Lopa

globally competitive," he remarked during the latest SBMA-PLDT contract signing as partners in Subic's further development.

PLDT's Alberto cited Thomas Friedman's book, "The World is Flat", naming ICT (Internet Communications Technology) as absolutely imperative for global competitiveness. It is particularly true for SBMA's target industries that include "cutting edge" healthcare, retail and trade, tourism related industries, as well as logistics and maritime related businesses.

Sunday BIZ

Baguio economy thrives, thanks to hotels, diners



By Dairos Cabaya
Inquirer Northern Luzon

HRM students and 'food stylists' of Baguio City face off in vegetable and fruit carving.

A judge takes a photo of one of the entries.

BAGUIO CITY—When Baguio was hit by Typhoon "Pepeng" last year, it was the restaurant owners and hotel and inn keepers who knocked on their neighbors' doors and called up friends to cheer them up and to urge them to continue on with their lives, says Benedicto Allumbra, city tourism officer.

Restaurants were suddenly filled with Baguio families who took dinners downtown and it helped keep the economy here going until landslides blocking Kennon Road, Halsema Highway and Naguilian Road were cleared, he says.

Allumbra says Baguio's hotel and restaurant community had been the heart of the city's commerce, and its annual Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism (HRT) Weekend provides proof of the industry's power to draw tourists to the summer capital.

From the Sept. 3 presentation of a 320-kg serving of pasta (displayed on a set of pans put together to form a single pan measuring 25 feet in diameter) that served 1,500 people to the annual ice carving skills competition at a local mall on Sept. 5, the event drew to 5,000 participating hotel and restaurant management students from Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Cordillera.

Allumbra says this was the week when Baguio outpoured up to 25,000 visitors to visit the summer capital.

The businessmen became active tourism magnets in 2002 when the Baguio Association of Hotels and Inns (Bahai) organized vegetable producers to preserve what they described as the biggest tossed salad in the Philippines.

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB) followed up this event with the presentation of a 1.2-km long mami bread in 2004, the 4.9-km long Baguio longganisa (native sausage) chain in 2006, and the 6.2 km Baguio longganisa relish in 2009. HRAB displayed its carvings and large sculpting value for visitors in 2005 and 2007, respectively.

In 2008, HRAB helped stage its Baguio-the "Climb on Heads," a national competition among the best chefs in the country. Last year, the group unveiled the country's largest pizza, presented in a tray measuring 25 feet in diameter.

This year, HRAB presented what it described as the largest pasta serving in the country.

Flor de Guzman, pasta chef of the Baguio Country Club and the HRT vice-director, says pasta dishes are familiar fare to Filipinos.

"Many restaurants serve pasta dishes because these are cheap and delicious. A plate of pasta costs between P80 and P200 in restaurants," he says. With a report from Nimarc Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Baguio families took dinner downtown and it helped keep the economy here going until the landslides were cleared

PASTA cooked in eight restaurant-weighed 320 kilos.

Rubbery shawarma turns into a shoe venture

By Jo-Anne C. Pañares

IT WAS an accidental business for couples and new business partners Jackie Tan, Rose Ong, TJ Lumayag and TJ Bustamante.

What they originally planned in May 2009 was to have a shawarma stand.

"There are lots of businesses which are open to franchising now, and they do not require big capital," Tan, a 25-year-old management graduate, says.

Ong, 27, and a management economics graduate, says Jackie and I are both from Bacolod and are always seen in high-heeled shoes, and/or in, if only we had a choice, we wouldn't wear those shoes. We always needed an alternative. We would bring Dip Flops or a pair of ballet flats."

The motivation grew stronger as they traveled to different places and could not fit many shoes in their luggage.

"Today airlines are offering more and more one rules, which allow more Filipinos to travel. Admittedly, girls cannot bring just one pair of shoes whenever they travel," Tan says. "I would always have a difficult time packing several shoes in my luggage especially with the 15- to 20-kilogram limit, so I really wanted something light and compact."

With this train of thought, Jackie, their dear business, was developed.

Jackie is the first in the Philippines to have the innovative footwear concept for urban contemporary women who are always on the go. Its flat shoes, which come in different colors and styles, can be flattened, folded and rolled—kinda like a shawarma leaf—making them flexible and comfortable shoes for women.

"Although Jackie can be used as a relaxing break from heels, these shoes are made for more than that," the 27-year-old lawyer-businesswoman says. "Our cushioned soles (sole) is the most unique feature of our products. They are soft and flexible but ensure comfort and safety for long walks and even in moderately rough terrains."

Being the first to introduce this fresh concept and lifestyle is a challenge that connected well with customers 'really paid off for the team, they say.

"We were able to set ourselves apart in the beginning," Ong says. "But we believe our advantage subsequent to our initial launch was our apparel with our clients."

Tan, Ong, Lumayag and Bustamante also decide that instead of outsourcing their production to other Asian countries where labor is cheap, all products of Jackie—from its shoes to its shoe bags to its paper bags—will be proudly hand-made in the Philippines.

"We believe in the skills and talents of the Filipinos. We want to bring back the highly reputable esteem that the Marikina shoe industry

RUBBERY B2

SUELAS, the first footwear in the Philippines that can be flattened, folded and rolled, comes in different colors and styles.

LUMAYAG wants to restore the reputation of the Marikina shoe industry.

Business Features Editor Margie Quiogue-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Life is more than just money

Ynion pursues new interest: sustainable development

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LIKE A number of young entrepreneurs from humble backgrounds who got rich quick, Eugenio O. Ynion Jr. indulged himself in anything and everything that his hard-earned money could buy.

FIRST JOB

But and furious luxury sports cars from Germany for overnight, became regular fixtures of his large garage in Laguna.

He had more than what he really needed, which is why when he sold some of them, the mileage of the flashy automobiles did not even reach 1,000 kilometers.

Branded clothes and shoes for him and his family, pleasure trips here and abroad and meals in fine dining restaurants became routine—a far cry from the life he had in his early 20s, when he practically lived in the company car and did his toilet routine either at friends' houses or at the YMCA.

"I was able to acquire everything that I only dreamt of having before," the 40-year-old businessman-graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas tells the buy-now, "But at the back of my mind was the question of whether this was all life was about. It seemed so shallow."

Turning point

The turning point for the chair and chief executive officer of La Salud Shipping Agencies Corp., the exclusive Philippine agent of Israeli's Zim Integrated Shipping Lines and its affiliate, Gold Star Line Ltd., came in 2003 when he literally smelled an opportunity to put his capital and skills to another use.

"I woke up at 4 in the morning to the stench of garbage wafting from the trucks that passed through San Pedro. I learned later that as many as 200 trucks would pass by between 2 and 4 in the morning on the way to the dump," Ynion says. "The idea just hit me then to do something about the garbage problem, the environment and the town."

Almost immediately, he and other investors got together to plan the construction and development of a "green" mall that is envisioned to be a model for sustainable development.

Care will be put into keeping electricity and water use to a minimum, and it will be designed to make the most of natural sunlight in its towers, priority will go to those that will sell natural or environment-friendly products.

At the same time, Ynion is bullish on the prospect of developing a fishermen's wharf in San Pedro where the fishermen who depend on Laguna Lake can congregate to sell their products directly to the market.

ELEGANT Ynion Jr., chair of La Salud group of companies.

The limited native is also looking to install solar panels in public utility vernacular as well as introduce electric jeeps, in a bid to make San Pedro the purest town for environmental sustainability.

Not Ynion, the beauty about going green is that it is both a sound economic and social endeavor, guaranteeing him both a profit and fulfillment in knowing he has contributed to something worthwhile.

"I see here an opportunity, a synergy between those who have a lot and those who have less in life," says the former taxi operator and medical representative. "For me, charity is not the solution to poverty, business is."

It was entrepreneurship, after all, that catapulted Ynion to the ranks of the new rich.

Credits a French Jew

He credits a French Jew named Edouard Bultana, whom he met in 1997, for leading him in the right direction and giving him his big, life-changing break.

Bultana, president of France Eilli, one of the biggest importers of house furnishings in Europe, was a VIP client that other account executives of Maersk Lines avoided because of his eccentric ways. But since Ynion was one of the youngest employees of Maersk Lines, he was given the loathed assignment to take care of the "difficult" client.

And so he picked up Bultana from his hotel at 5:30 in the morning and immediately realized why his co-workers fled from any possibility of dealing with Bultana.

"He didn't even greet me. All he said was 'Where's your car? Get it. Hurry Hurry," Ynion recalls.

And it got worse from there.

"I asked him where he wanted to have breakfast and he said he already had breakfast, that he thought it a waste of time to stop for breakfast. But of course, I still haven't eaten breakfast since I had to wake up and ready to be able to pick him

LIFE, B6.1

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Cebu Pacific awards South Korean as its 45 millionth passenger

THIRTY-EIGHT year-old Korean traveler Jae-Soo Hur was on his way to the Philippines for his summer vacation. Accompanied by his girlfriend, he was off to explore more places and was excited to know more about the country that he considers his second home. His excitement and enthusiasm kicked up a notch when the airline that he chose to fly with called his name and announced that he was to receive a prize as the carrier's 45 millionth passenger.

Jae-Soo Hur was stranded right then and there at the Incheon International Airport in South Korea by the Philippines' leading low cost carrier, Cebu Pacific.

"Searching our 45-millionth passenger is another huge accomplishment for us as Cebu Pacific. We are really proud to have reached this milestone in only 14 years of operation," says Lucchini Yong, Cebu Pacific's vice president for marketing and distribution.

Jae-Soo Hur, who received two Stored Dr.chrome's Cebu tickets, has flown to the Philippines almost the airline several times and considers Cebu to be his favorite destination. For him, the city provides much-needed relaxation, helping him escape stress and leaving him rejuvenated. "Cebu is suitable for my leisure style, that is why I keep coming back," he shares.

Apart from the Queen City of the South, he has also visited the white-sand shores of Boracay and breathtaking Bohol. On his next visit, he wishes to visit Manila and Subic. He chose to Cebu Pacific as he prefers no-frills airlines that provide more value for money compared to full-service and more-expensive carriers.

"For me, Cebu Pacific is really convenient. I am a fan of its 'Go Lite' fares. I also save more from my airfare so I get to use my travel money for other activities," he explains. Aside from practicality, he chooses the carrier because of the convenience it provides its passengers.

"The flight schedules are suitable for me. I'm an office worker and Cebu Pacific's flight schedules let me go to the Philippines after work hours," he adds.

Apart from that, many continue to enjoy the convenient service and affordable fares of Cebu Pacific as it keeps expanding its routes to serve more travelers.

"We thank our passengers for their overwhelming support, and we will continue our commitment to enhance people's lives through low cost, great value travel," adds Garelli.

Cebu Pacific flies the most extensive network in the country, with 33 local and 16 international destinations, including Busan, Shanghai and Beijing in China, Jakarta and Osaka. For booking information, visit www.cebupacificair.com or call reservation hotlines (632) 7-703-888 or (632) 230-0888.

SMART, SM TEAM UP TO EXPAND SMART SCHOOLS

SM Investments Corporation through the SM Foundation is getting more public high schools connected to the Internet via the Smart Schools Program (SSP) of Smart Communications. Next on Smart's list of supported public high schools under SSP was recently signed by SM Foundation executive director Debbie Ty, Smart chief wireless advisor Florentino Viray and PBSP trustee Jose Antonio Ibarzabal. Also present were attending SM Foundation executive director for education Carmen Linda Ang-de Ocampo and PBSP chief executive advisor Rhea Grace Bautista-Jurilla.

Under the agreement, SM Foundation will provide P1 million to fund the inclusion of five schools in the SSP which is being implemented by the PBSP. The Smart Schools is Smart's flagship community service initiative that provides libraries of ICT learning materials online through partnerships with public schools officials, librarians and concerned members of community associations (POCAs).

ROCHE LAUNCHES NEW CANCER MEDICINE

When news a decade that saw no new effective therapy developed for the most common and aggressive form of childhood brain cancer, medulloblastoma (MB). Glioma is the most common type of primary brain tumor, accounting for approximately one-third of all cases diagnosed. Glioma also represents around 80 percent of all primary malignant brain tumor cases. Glioblastoma (GBM) is the most common type of glioma. Photo shows from left Hilda Guerra, Roche senior brand manager; Dr. Marc Chamberlain, American Board of Neuro-Oncology; Seattle Cancer Care Alliance; University of Washington; and Cubbie Gonzales, Roche oncology business unit director, during the hope cancer scientific symposium.

QUEZON CITY MAYOR VISITS VITRO DATA CENTER

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista recently visited the Vitro Data Center accompanied by representatives of eFLOT and Novidy's IT division. The mission was part of the project tasked to eFLOT last September 2010 when signed by Quezon City to provide for its business continuity requirements. Vitro Data Center is owned and operated by eFLOT and is also the country's first and only strategically data center. Photo shows Mayor Bautista (2nd from right) with (from left) Jessica Pound, eFLOT vice president and CEO; and Fred Espiritu, Quezon City IT head during the formal contract signing.

KIDRO ILUSTRADO STAGES CONCERT

Watch Dave groove, listen to Ivan at new experience center to see move with Vivo Sonic-dictionary! Nuts, Kilig, Kantot!. Tonight and 8 p.m. at the Philamlife Theatre, 108 Ayala, Manila. Vivo Sonic is an all-male stage dance act by multi-awarded choreographers Edmund Ajon Nguno and Anna Abella-Pagaru. The concert is supported by Center for the benefit of the Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Charity Ministry. Call (02) 920-6668 or e-mail fundraisers@philyan.com for tickets.

LEDESMA, WIDEX DONATE HEARING AIDS TO MAKATI

Early this month, their solemn Buddha-lagi-ik Events Inc. (Lucci and Widex AS) presented 200 units of donation to the City Government of Makati that include 150 units of fully automatic digital hearing aids surrounding to more than P4.5 million. The donation is intended for indigent residents of Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati citizens who need hearing aids but cannot afford them. The theme is "Sandata Kung sa Makati, Isa-antigong mga Bingi". The solemn ceremony was held at the Barangay Hall of Makati Cinemas and Lakeview by Mayor Jejomar Binay Jr. Dr. Ma. Concepcion Talaud, Dr. Hernando Ocampo and Dr. Angel Gatchi.

DRIVE AROUND THE METRO WITH RC COLA

From the time Interstate Refreshments Corp (IRC) reintroduced RC Cola to the market, cola-loving Filipinos have embraced the product's return to glory. Today, RC Cola has become the most preferred soda brand in Metro Manila. But still, IRC is not resting on its laurels. The company has rolled out a marketing campaign that aims to make RC Cola more visible than ever. And it has decorated 10 Metro Manila buses to feature RC Cola ongoing brand advertisements. The RC Cola wrapped-around ads will help consumers gain a new perspective on the product. The makers of the new RC Cola wrapped-around buses are Mandaluyong-based Ad Impact Manila Inc. (also Manila, UP Town Ctr 2 buses), 3M Solutions Philippines (2 buses) and, Synthesis Media (also San Juan Del Monte, Katipunan, Commonwealth, Ortigas, Bonifacio 2 buses).

Healthcare is a phone call away at The Generics Pharmacy

THE GENERICS Pharmacy, the country's fastest growing pharmacy chain offering quality, affordable medicines, continues its aggressive ways of making healthcare accessible to the public by coming up with another first service that will benefit consumers.

The "Generics Direct" is a public service that consumers can avail at The Generics Pharmacy as part of its mission to provide free medical consultation to the public. Instead of traveling to the outlet though, consumers can now simply dial 722-2222 and get free medical consultation from a doctor on duty about their concerns on common maladies. The service is available from Monday to Saturday at 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Benjamin I. Limon, president of The Generics Pharmacy, said that the company will always find ways to make medicines and proper healthcare accessible to all Filipinos.

The provision of free medical consultation is one of the pioneering efforts of The Generics Pharmacy as part of its social responsibilities in reaching as many consumers as possible. Selected branches provide a space in their clinic where an in-house doctor provides free medical consultation to pharmacy consumers. The patients' various symptoms and ailments are diagnosed, after which, they will be prescribed with generic medicines that they can conveniently buy at The Generics Pharmacy.

Other branches also offer free dental consultations, apart from other advantages like 12 and 26 percent discounts for senior citizens, free delivery within Metro Manila, and other incentives for loyalty customers.

Limon added that all of these consumer benefits are in line with The Generics Pharmacy's advocacy to educate the public about generic drugs. "People need to be enlightened. Generic medicines are as effective as their branded counterparts because they are made with the same active ingredients, same dosage form and same strength but at a fraction of the cost," he explained.

The Generics Pharmacy currently has 900 outlets all over the country in almost every corner of the country. Each outlet offers some 800 products that represent 85 percent of the country's medical needs, says Limon. These include medications for common ailments like headache, fever, cough and colds, diarrhea, constipation, and hypertensity. Drugs for serious ailments like high blood, hypertension, cholesterol, diabetes, asthma, and arthritis are also available, along with multivitamins, vitamins, and food supplements. TGP offers low-priced equivalents of medicines like Dextromethorphan, a medication for fever and pain, for only P0.60 per tablet against the leading brand at P3.

For inquiries, please call 634-2772, 634-1566, 910-0444 to 45 e-mail customercare@thegenericspharmacy.com or visit www.thegenericspharmacy.com.

Café Iguazu now at Syotti's

AFTER 4 scrumptious meals, the no-cooking taste of pure and creamy Café Iguazu Ready-to-Mix 3 gourmet coffee at Syotti's, breakfast limit 3 Timog Commercial Complex, 3 Timog Avenue cor. Matiyas Street, Quezon City. You can also avail freebies such as 20 percent off on dinners from 6:00 p.m. to 12 a.m. for dine-in customers only; Syotti's Noodles and Toppings Express has fun-filled menu for parties, conferences, seminars, meetings or any occasions available for reservation or booking. They also deliver and without delivery charge. For inquiries call (02) 376-7180 or (0927) 592-7320.

Photoline opens in SM City Naga

PHOTOLINE INTERNATIONAL Corporation (Photoline) has opened its 28th branch at 2nd floor SM City Naga. It now has one of the largest branch networks in the country, with branches located in major cities, nationwide. Photoline services range from digital printing, studio shoots and ID photos. It also uses special paper which is water-proof, thick and durable. It now offers large format digital printing up to 24" x 36". Professional photographers can avail of their special wholesale printing rates in roaming or nonroaming (631-5384452) or e-mail photoline@photoline.ph. All stores also carry a full line of digital cameras at competitive prices. For more information, please call Photoline Customer Service Hotline at 631-5384452 or e-mail photoline@photoline.ph.

SENIOR'S DAY AT SM SUPERMALLS

Senior citizens rule every every second Tuesday of the month as five day was allocated by SM for pre-nuptly for the seniors to mood with their pain, share stories, or simply enjoy the company of their peers. They will be treated to healthy vegetarian dishes from Wellness restaurant, courtesy of the senior citizens

Life is more than just ...

From page B1 »

up at the appointed time," he claims.

They didn't even stop to have lunch as Rubana brought along bread, which he got from the hotel's breakfast buffet. "It's a good thing he shared one piece of bread with me, because I was really hungry by then," Yuico says. But to Rubana's credit, and Yuico's relief, they had a feast of a dinner when they got back to the hotel.

Yuico must have made quite an impression on the French man because when he returned, he had specific instructions. He wanted only Yuico to drive for him.

It was during their third time together that their relationship was sealed.

"He said he wanted to go to Makati from Las Piñas in 15 minutes. He was going 'turn right, turn left, turn right. But anyway, right meaning going straight in a circle. I told him it's not possible but he insisted that I turn right. So we ended up in a circle. Then, he said: 'I like you boy. I like you.'" Yuico relates.

Buying agent

That's when Rubana offered Yuico to be his buying agent in the Philippines in 1999.

And apart from giving Yuico his big break, Rubana also became his mentor, imparting to him his own secrets in success—like being organized and living simply.

"He Rubana said that if you don't organize, you fail. I was so disorganized then that he even hired someone to teach me [to become organized]," Jun shares.

Rubana also told him to not spend money that is not yet in his pocket.

"He was such a miser that when I retired him in France several years after I went into business on my own, I wouldn't believe that the man actually lives in a castle, and with a lot of land in his backyard," Jun says.

That visit eventually led to Yuico's fateful deal in March 2009 with Jim Shipping, the Israeli flag carrier as it turns out that Rubana personally knew the owners of the shipping line.

"At that time, Jim Shipping was having problems with its local agent and everybody wanted to represent them. I thought that Mr. Rubana could help me since he is also Jewish, so I asked him. He called the owner and the next day, I became Jim's agent," he says.

There was no turning back from there and despite the challenges brought about by the economic crisis, Yuico says he has nothing to complain about on the business front. This is why he has more than enough time and resources to devote to his efforts to promote a green and sustainable lifestyle among Filipinos.

"When the time comes, I want my children to be proud of me, not for anything else but the difference I have somehow made in the lives of others," Yuico says.

He himself knows what a difference one person can make.

YUICO

Kids join fight vs climate change

HSBC, WWF's Project EcoKids encourages children to love nature

By Amy R. Nunez

TO SAVE against global warming and climate change should not be fought by adults alone.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines, a non-governmental organization involved in environmental concerns, believes that it is crucial to "train a new generation of climate warriors" if the government really wants to effect lasting solutions to environmental issues.

It was for this reason that WWF and HSBC headed back in 2008 their Project EcoKids, which stands for "environmentally conscious kids."

Three years and 13,000 students later, Project EcoKids can be considered the country's single most effective program to teaching children in some 50 schools nationwide about climate change causes and solutions, according to WWF.

While climate change issues are not yet fully integrated into the public school curriculum, HSBC teamed up with WWF to implement an education drive to reach children about climate change and the simple solutions they can adopt to prepare for its effects.

"We believe in empowering the youth to become future stewards for the environment. One good way is to make them realize that climate change is not some complex concept for grown-ups. Rather, it's something they can understand, something they themselves can act on," explains Project EcoKids team leader Ofel Remoroza.

Project EcoKids is the latest stage in the evolution of WWF education drives formed on increasing awareness on ecosystem and endangered species protection.

It drew on years of experience in modifying a subject long regarded as "too technical" for kids.

Project EcoKids is fully endorsed by the Department of Education, and plans are underways to have climate modules with the regular school curriculum.

Grade 5 pupils were identified as the best group to train as science-oriented subjects are introduced at this stage.

By starting them young, these students will hopefully form environment-friendly habits and consequently live environmentally-conscious lifestyles, WWF says.

According to WWF, Project EcoKids consists of four 60-minute modules, each delivered weekly.

Climate Change is the first topic to be discussed, which includes discussions regarding the causes and effects of global warming and how human impacts accelerate or slow down its effects.

Another module tackles Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy, which shows the various types of renewable energy sources in the Philippines and shares simple tips on how to reduce household energy consumption.

The Waste Management module streamlines 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) into the concept of Waste Segregation, which teaches children the importance of segregating their waste and how to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The fourth and final week integrates all lessons into a personal roadmap to customize each child's consumption of resources.

Children, according to WWF, are given opportunities during the four weeks to engage in role-playing, song and dance skits, arts and crafts, word games and math challenges to entertain the lessons.

"The lessons are imparted unto children, but it is their parents who will feel immediate benefits," adds project officer Mary Stella.

"For example, when we convince kids to lessen their electricity usage, their household bill is reduced. There's no better teacher than experience...and positive experiences are what's in store for our students," she notes.

The Project EcoKids program relies solely on volunteers, which have reached almost 500 people within the three years that it has been implemented.

These volunteers are mostly HSBC employees and freelancers.

WWF hopes that the success of Project EcoKids can be replicated in more areas, particularly in schools outside Metro Manila, Remoroza adds.

CHILDREN learn even just ABCs, but also the 3Rs

PROJECT EcoKids has benefited 13,000 students in three years

DESIGNED FOR PERFORMANCE.
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TUDOR

Washington Watch

Around 750 delegates from over 40 countries attended the 6th Asian Carriers' Conference held in Shangri-La's Mactan Resort on September 21-24, 2010.

PLDT-SMART HOLDS 6TH ASIAN CARRIERS' CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2010-SHANGRI-LA MACTAN RESORTS AND SPA, MACTAN, CEBU

They headed the call to assemble for the changing face of communications. 750 delegates representing 226 international carriers, operators, vendors and submarine cable operators from more than 40 countries trooped to the 6th Asian Carriers' Conference (ACC) in Mactan, Cebu.

Organized annually by the PLDT and SMART International and Carrier Business Group, the ACC brought together a wide range of communications specialists who took the opportunity to forge partnerships, explore bold opportunities, finalize talks, share experiences and be updated on recent developments in Asia.

An emerging market seized by changes in technologies and trends, the almost Darwinian need to adapt was seen as vital. Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT and SMART Communications, Inc. Chairman, set the tone in his keynote address: "Our industry has reached another "strategic inflection point." This is a moment of great opportunity and dark peril. The task of leadership must be to understand these new challenges, shape the response and move decisively into a new world with new paradigms."

Pangilinan stated that "market saturation is impeding future growth, competition is eroding margins, regulators are getting more regulatory and the new services are driving revenues higher but at lower margins." He noted serious challenges in today's global industry. As operators switch gears from legacy to digital, fierce competition surges from internet-based voice services and social networking. Besieged, telecommunications companies must swiftly adapt to fashion new services via solid partnerships stemming from traditional and new operators.

"Cooperation is in fact becoming a well-travelled path for telcos. As the internet became a global phenomenon, operators have learned to work with third-party service providers who actually account for the vast majority of services being offered through our networks," the Chairman stressed.

> *"Cooperation is in fact becoming a well-travelled path for telcos. As the internet became a global phenomenon, operators have learned to work with third-party service providers who actually account for the vast majority of services being offered through our networks."*
>
> PLDT SMART
> Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan

Telcos need to reinvent themselves to survive. By introducing innovative products and services and completing projects outside of what is expected. Change occurs at breakneck speed. The industry must change or bow with it.

Pangilinan pointed out the partnership between the PLDT Group and major infrastructure companies such as Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), Mayniad Water Services, Inc., Manila North Tollways Corp. and several hospitals that would benefit from the dynamics between them and ultimately give birth to innovation.

The abovementioned companies are now subsidiaries of Metro Pacific Investments Corp., a company also chaired by Pangilinan.

Speakers from reputable international organizations also took to the stage, among them, Jim Clarke, Global Carrier Sales Director, Telstra International; Stephan Martin, Global Operator Benchmarking Team Analyst, Nokia Siemens Networks; Philippe Millet, Chairman, Rob van den Dam, Global Telecommunications Industry Leader, IBM Institute for Business Value; David Kennedy, Research Director.

At the exhibition hall, a PLDT-SMART display also graced the conference, allowing attendees to view the latest from the two leading telcos. CSR activities for the benefit of fishermen and farmers, and tourism efforts promoted by the ACC rounded up this year's successful event.

I.-R: Mr. Patrick Marjot, Manly; Mr. David Chalmers, Tata Communications; Mr. Sunney Chang, PCCW; Mr. Napoleon Nazareno, President & CEO, PLDT & Smart; Mr. Alejandro Cang, Head, Int'l Carrier Business, PLDT & SMART; Mr. Stephane Dartige Du Fournet, Orange; Mr. Patrick George, SICS; Mr. Henrik Almroth, Teliasonera International; Mr. Jim Clarke, Telstra International

Mr. Mon Isberto, The master of ceremonies of the ACC plenary session

MVPangilinan in a ceremonial giving of school bags with school supplies to farmers' families in Cebu

ACC is a venue for international telecommunications industry players to conduct bilateral meetings

Photo op with MVPangilinan during the CSR activity. Rogers of Canada and PLDT SMART Foundation donated outrigger boats to a fishing community in Olutangan Island

ACC dinner Party

ACC delegates with PLDT's Ms. Ramon Chiles, PVP-Carrier Relations and Sales Management 2nd from the left) join the ACC Discovery Dining activity

ACC delegates enjoy the thrill of riding a banana boat during the social activity on the last day of the conference

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Ballsy, Pinky, Nina wear I Am Cory /E1

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SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO

Tragic hostage-taking drew people to our pavilion—out of curiosity

While their colleagues from China and HK no longer respond to their e-mail, our guides are coping well

THE PHILIPPINE pavilion with images of giant hands as the Shanghai World Expo

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

IF FILIPINOS were scared stiff of flying to Hong Kong soon after last August's hostage-taking incident, imagine how worried some of our compatriots were while manning the Philippine pavilion in the ongoing World Expo in Shanghai.

Michael Camacho, one of the pavilion's guides, for instance, tried to keep his cool as a young, English-speaking Chinese artist balked after being refused entry to the pavilion's popular massage area, an 8-yuan (about 60 pesos) ticket.

"I intended to several VIPs inside the massage area and was unable to tell people lined up outside that the massagers could no longer attend to them," said Camacho, who speaks Mandarin. "While others understood and started leaving, this guy stayed behind and started saying all sorts of things."

Instead of accusing Camacho's employers, the guy was incomprehensible. Worse, his rage was out of control. He found a way to enter and ran Camacho's apology to lambast the Philippines and everything it stood for, including the hapless guide and the pavilion.

The Filipino, a student of diplomacy, remained calm and refused to take the bait.

"Sorry, is that all you could say," Camacho quoted the guy as saying. "Eight people from HK died because of your stupid police and all you could say is sorry? F--k you, F--k your pavilion, F--k your stupid country!"

Fortunately the guy, who Camacho later assumed was probably just trying to impress his girlfriend, proved to be an isolated case.

Apart from concerns over their personal safety, not a few were worried about the tragic event's impact on visitor attendance to the pavilion, a project spearheaded by then Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and designed by architect Ed Calma and associates.

One big party place

With "Performing Cities" as theme, the direly lit 2,000-sq m pavilion is like one big party place featuring a series of dazzling and sensuous exhibits ranging from large photographs, video installations to virtual-cut pictures.

It also houses multilevel stages in varying sizes to showcase performances by various Filipino artists.

Organizers also allotted a private area for several Filipino shampoo to give visitors a sample of the traditional Philippine massage (After).

The massage area's inclusion echoes images of giant hands, including one holding a camera-phone and another wearing a boxing glove, splashed on the pavilion's face like murals.

Although expo authorities were quick to provide extra security within and outside the

YANG G

CHRIS J. Hobun, PMFTC Inc. president (3rd from left); former Supreme Court justice Dante Tinga; Bayan Bora-Tinga; PMFTC Inc. corporate affairs director; Consul Noemi Rivera; lawyer Dina Layer-Hock; Philip Morris Mfg. Inc., manager, public affairs and communications; and lawyer Ver Hock

Red Ribbon
Black Forest
OUR BESTSELLER

Tragic hostage-taking drew people . . .

From page C1

pavilion, the presence of uniformed guards a week from the hostage-taking incident seemed to have scared, instead of reassured, the predominantly Chinese crowd.

"We've had as many as 50,000 visitors on certain days during the summer months," said Clement Huang, a pavilion guide. "The decline in the number of guests immediately after the hostage-taking incident wasn't drastic, but our restaurant and gift shop experienced the most impact. It was as if a silent boycott was happening."

Overnight, sales in an in-house Filipino restaurant managed by Venzi Cafe plunged by 50 percent. A gift shop of Philippine handicrafts and souvenir items experienced a similar drop in sales.

"We've had to bring down our prices by offering a 20-percent discount," said restaurant manager Anna Martinez. "It's only now that sales have started to pick up since it's a holiday."

Martinez was referring to the annual Mid-Autumn or Moon-cake Festival, a well-loved Chinese holiday marked by family reunions and the exchange of mooncakes.

The Chinese may be resistant to Filipino food, said Martinez, but their curiosity has led them to try some of chef Edong de Guzman's offerings, particularly his pancit (or crusted, spaghetti with meat sauce, but better, in short), chopsuey, adobo and lumpia.

"They have yet to acquire a taste for sinigang, which is mixed primarily at the Filipino market," said Martinez. "But a few of them smile when they taste Chef Edong's lumpiang Shanghai. There's no such dish in Shanghai."

Art awards

Almost five months after the global financial crisis opened in May, we recently visited the set to site with eight winners from various art awards, a biennial art fair among Filipino artists organized and sponsored by Philip Morris—also known from down as PMFTC Inc. (See sidebar.)

According to the Department of Tourism's Tess Mauricio, manager of the Philippine pavilion, despite the negative publicity generated by the outrage, the Philippines is on track to meet its target of attracting almost eight million visitors to have the expo ends on Oct. 31.

The World Expo aims to draw at least 80 million guests to its

MAJOR, major test is conducted in queue area.

DESPITE negative publicity, Philippine pavilion attracts modest line in Shanghai.

WINNER Kris Yasay plays guitar as he serves Chris L. Mahoney and Rayne Tiega wine at a special dinner for Philippine Art Awards winners at M on the Bund.

PHILIPPINE pavilion provides live entertainment at almost all hours of the day.

Unfortunate as it was, she believes that the hostage-taking incident even brought more people to the Philippine pavilion due to curiosity.

Evident impact

But the negative impact is quite evident to people on the ground like Huang.

Before the hostage-taking, Huang and his Filipino colleagues could make advanced arrangements via e-mail with their counterparts in the HR and Chinese pavilions to help them accommodate certain VIPs.

Such reciprocal arrangements are helpful in opening politicians, corporate sponsors and journalists from busy queues at other countries' pavilions.

Since the hostage incident, our colleagues from China and HK no longer respond to our e-mails," he said. "Such special requests are now done on the consular level."

As expo insiders, Huang and his colleagues are also allowed to visit other countries' pavil. Any without the need to line up. But since they learn that the Filipino, Huang often gets a second look, particularly from the Chinese staff.

But there's always that sliver of hope. Huang once encountered a middle-aged woman from HK. It somehow strengthened his faith in the innate goodness of people, no matter their nationality.

"She approached me and told me that she's from HK," said Huang. "Before leaving me, she wished me peace. I said thank you."

FILIPINO pavilion guides Clement Huang and Mikhail Camacho

Art awardees tour Shanghai

AS PART OF THEIR PRIZE, eight winners of this year's Philippine Art Awards—formerly known as the Ayala awards—are touring the Philippine pavilion at the Shanghai Expo.

Open to all Filipino artists, the biennial art fair is organized and funded by PMFTC Inc. This year's winners are Augustus Hoope Filonal Pitpit, Manuel Duke Baldonado, Jr., Valentino Antonio Ng Rubello "Tad" Cortes and Rodney Yap. Lianne Cabrera, Jose Tence Ng Rubello "Tad" Cortes and Rodney Yap (Junior Choice Award of Excellence), and Crispin Villanueva Jr. and Shantoine Salabao (Junior Choice Award of Merit).

Multi- and board-component chicken feathers on canvas, Hoope's jaw-dropping "The End of the Black In-House Issues," has been cited by art critics for its hypnotic appeal, which is "at once puzzling and enthralling, unnerving and mystifying."

Winners were chosen from a selection of 60 works from four regional groupings—Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila.

"The quality of entries are fast improving through the years, not only in terms of craftsmanship, but more importantly, in terms of the artists' guiding creative philosophy," said National Artist Benedicto "BenCab" Cabrera, a member of that year's panel of judges, in an earlier interview.

Other judges were National Artist Napoleon Abueva, PMFTC president Dan J. Nelson, PMFTC director for corporate affairs Ester Hoya Arias, Asian Tigers Lane Hoang IP Asian Lane, Philip Morris International director for consultations Mila Medina, National Museum director Jeremy Barns, Ateneo Art Gallery director Cid Reyes, College of Fine Arts dean Florentino Cabagnot, Lopez Museum director Mercedes Lopez-Nagano and former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Pitpiting animalia, together with those entered by other regional finalists, are on display at the National Museum's North Gallery from Wednesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., until Oct. 31.

On top of cash prizes, winners were entitled to an all-expenses-paid trip to Asia's only PMFTC adhesive lot by Solven chose Shanghai this year for its vibrant art scene.

THE four's Philippine Art Awards winners at the Shanghai Museum. Rodney Yap, Jose Cabrera, Dexter Ng Rubello "Tad" Cortes, Augustus Hoope, Manuel Maximino Salabao II, Marvin Chito Natural and Crispin Villanueva Jr.

Apart from going to the World Expo, the artists also visited the Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art and China Telecom Museum, also in Pudong.

LOUIS Nacino, Monica Bautista, Minerva Tanenco, Bobby Rosales, Sandra Cinchi Lagrosa and Lolo Cacabelos

Cultural concert series

BRIAN CARRADERS Corp., the official importer and distributor of BMW vehicles in the country, together with the Yellow Cultural Foundation, a nonprofit organization which aims to cultivate artist and audience development, recently held the second installment of a string of performances dubbed as the BMW Cultural Concert Series.

Held at The Tower Club at the Philam Life Building, the by-invitation only event was well-attended by aficionados of classical music. Guests were treated to performances by maestrinet Dona Fernandez, soprano Joy Tamayo and pianist Lourdes de Leon-Gregorio.

The theme for the night was "Power and Performance," which was present in the BMW 7 Series, the benchmark of true leadership.

"We are happy to support the Filipino Cultural Foundation, because we believe in the same ideals of promoting true Filipino artistry. BMW has always been committed to the preservation of culture, thereby living up to its social responsibility," said Bobby Rosales, president of ACC.

The third installment of the BMW Cultural Concert Series is scheduled to happen at the residence of Ricky Zobel.

Call 893-9419 ext 2.

When food inspires art

DIFFUSION OF the Prince Albert gala dinner on Oct. 7 are in for two extraordinary treats—gastronomic and artistic.

Inspired by the concept of eight celebrity chefs pooling their culinary skills for the benefit of the Children's Heart and WWF-Philippines, award-winning painter, sculptor and printmaker, Manuel D. Baldemor has come up with a mixed media painting titled "The Food Life at Prince Albert" for the cover of the event's limited edition menu card.

Done along cubistic lines the original artwork depicts elongated dining in the restaurant and the eight chefs.

Only 50 serial-numbered menu cards will be archival printed on fine textured art paper and hand-signed by Baldemor thus making them a collector's item. The original 24 inches by 36 inches painting will be auctioned off during the dinner with the entire proceeds do be divided between the two beneficiaries upon the request of the artist.

"I instantly liked the idea when I

"EATABLE," by Manuel Baldemor

heard about it," says Baldemor.

Dining a food-tasting session to which he was invited and asked to give comments on the food and the wines, he was impressed by the chefs' professionalism and elaborate to some up with a dishes that would live up to their guests' expectations. He likens the experience to a good symphony where there is perfect harmony, where each note is important.

"I like it that the chefs are working as a team and that no one is trying to steal the limelight at the others' expense."

The food-tasting experience resulted in a black-and-white calligraphic interpretation of the gastronomic feast laid out before him.

Prince Albert's Dan Wright, flight from gastronomic milestone event gathers eight respected names in the Philippine restaurant scene namely Blue Ribbon, Shikoh Pastries, Billy King, Boland Lee, Christian Wanders, Roland Ingco, Cecille Sorrosa and Aaron Sorrosa, who have one time or the other worked for InterContinental Manila. Together they will prepare an eight-course dinner unlike any other that they have done before.

Only 90 guests will be accommodated on a first-come-first-served prepaid basis. Call 793-7888 or drop by the event's reservations desk at the hotel lobby from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tagaytay's hip vacation spot

By Irene C. Perez

WHY is vacation but can't go too far or too long? Tagaytay is the place for you and your family. It's roughly a couple of hours from Manila on a good day but all the convenience of the city and a breezy countryside vibe.

Consider staying in Summit Ridge Hotel, a family place managed by Tadeo-Leuen Land Corp. Since it opened in June 2009, a number of families have enjoyed its cozy rooms—all with the soothing view of Taal Lake.

"We have a lot of families coming over during long weekends and holidays," said marketing communications officer Erika Prado. "Kids love the outdoor infinity pool whatever the weather is, while others prefer to cozy up in the rooms and watch cable TV."

The nine-story building has 108 units composed of deluxe rooms and two-bedroom suites with a mini-kitchen and dining area. It has a gym, spa, indoor basketball and badminton courts and golf course. Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available.

Located along Aguinaldo Highway, Summit Ridge sits on the highest point of the Tagaytay ridge, the coldest spot in the city. Beside it is The Promenade, a two-level commercial center with a supermarket, coffee shop and food joints. In-house entertainment hotspot and O2 serve comfort food.

"It is near Tagaytay tourist attractions like Picnic Grove where ziplines and cable cars are available, People's Park, Palace in the Sky, Mushroomburger, the Taal crater where you could trek and go boating."

It is also commuter-friendly. Just take a Tagaytay bus from Pasay or Cubao, get off at Magallanes Square (a restaurant and shop-okay row) then hop on a jeep marked with "Tanauan" that passes by exactly at Summit Ridge. Getting around can be done via tricycles and jeeps.

The nine-story building has 108 deluxe rooms and two-bedroom suites

SUMMIT Ridge Hotel's infinity pool

Online promos

Booking online is a convenient way for would-be guests to stay in the hotel.

"We recently offered special rates to those who booked on our website (www.summitridgehotel.com) in July for a stay from August-September. The rates went as low as P2,900 for an overnight stay. We hold cocktail parties with live entertainers at the Sky Lounge, the highest floor on Saturdays."

A special day rest and overnight package is ongoing as well. "The No-9 Hr package is for those who just want to stay in for the day. On weekends, guests can use the room, pool and gym facilities from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for P1,888 net. For an overnight stay with our breakfast, rates start at P3,256. Please check our website and join our mailing list for updates," explained Prado.

You can book accordingly across for the coming holidays, she adds. Summit Ridge is very charming during Christmastime. The chilly weather complements the holiday season, the misty Tagaytay fog enters the building and indoor too, but like you're walking through clouds. We also have a Countdown Party on New Year's Eve, perfect for those who want to escape from Metro Manila's frenzy."

Wedding packages

Summit Ridge has hosted 30 weddings so far and is becoming a choice venue for couples. Nearby churches are St. Leander and the picturesque Cubacuba.

"Our wedding packages include an overnight stay and breakfast in bed for two, one-day event management service, three-layer fondant cake, down in a decorated cage, tented upstairs. We can also take care of entertainers, menu cards, guest books and give discounts to relatives and friends who are attending, even to the couple on their first wedding anniversary," Prado says.

The ballroom can host as many as 500 people; function rooms, 20-100; Sky Lounge, 120; and event lawn, 300.

Seminars

A unique hotel feature is the 140-seater Summit Learning Center, the only audiovisual-forensic examination center in Tagaytay.

"We have a lot of law-in conventions and workshops during the year, especially medical-related companies in the pharmaceutical and retail industries," says Prado.

Summit Ridge is at Km. 58 Maharlika West, General Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City. Call 2488888 or (02)-9526888; e-mail reservations@summitridgehotel.com; visit www.summitridgehotel.com.

WATCH out for promos and book online for best rates.

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The Modern Tableware Meadow Melamine Collection defines the highest standard in its class for tableware service. Each piece a beautiful and yet durable part of the Filipino family's home dining table.

The timeless Small Goody Box is perfect for the typical Pinoy family on their outings and get-togethers with extended relatives who enjoy family-sized meals and of course, take-out.

The Heat 'N Eat line allows you to heat, serve, and store your food all in the same container. Special vents in their seals allow for escaping steam while microwaving.

Modern design sensitivities don't end with aesthetics as far as Tupperware is concerned. There is also a conscientious and eco-aware aspect throughout its line. Each Tupperware product is designed to last.

Marvin Agustin, celebrity chef, restaurateur and most recent Tupperware spokesperson is also a Tupperware baby like many of us.

Tupperware's eco-friendly Eco Bottle is reusable and durable, easily replacing hundreds of disposable plastic water bottles.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ **Tragic hostage-taking drew people to our** pavilion—out of curiosity /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

PBT presents 4 new works in 'Romansa'

ON ITS 24TH SEASON, Philippine Ballet Theater showcases the talents of four outstanding choreographers in a show, "Romansa" on Oct. 8-10, 3 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Little Theater.

After a successful restaging of "Swan Lake," PBT celebrates love in true Filipino tradition with the works of choreographers Herbert Abrenio, Jerry Bowler, Stanley Cañete and Rendiver Linhan.

These four explore themes of Filipino courtship and romance in neo-classical ballet pieces that form a rich amalgam of tradition, movement, music and emotion.

The season opens soon, from the '50s romantic era of Ophelia in Score to the '80s pop music of the OPM Hiking Society.

Sirena Ramos provides music, with ethnic tribal music by Zig Hagunoon and Nikky Acuña. It's written under the supervision of Jed Balanco and Dennis Reyes III.

Call PBT 8526865, CCP Box Office 8321125 or Ticketworld 8919999.

Indigenous Peoples' Festival this October

TO CELEBRATE Indigenous Peoples Month this October, the NCCA spearheads Dapon: Indigenous Peoples' Festival 2010 in Manila.

The event is organized by the NCCA sub-commission on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts (SCCTA), headed by Domingo A. Bañalan, and Ugnayang Pang-Aghamanon, UGAT in cooperation with agencies and local governments.

The festival aims to gather indigenous ethnic groups in cultural exchanges and presentations highlighting significant aspects of their way of life, both material and non-material culture and tradition. This is in line with Presidential Proclamation 2006, declaring October as Indigenous Peoples' Month.

The NCCA has been celebrating Indigenous Peoples Month for three years now in major regions.

Performances will be held at the National Museum and in five universities in the Metro Manila cities—Quezon, Pasig, Pasay, San Juan, Manila and Makati. "Mini Sulyapeys ng Kabihasnan," the performances are made possible with the support of the National Committee on Dance, headed by Shirley Kahli-Cruz.

The exhibit, "Sa Tirahang Kabihasnan," is with the support of the National Committee on Visual Arts head Egay Tabaosa Fernandez. It's on view until Oct. 30 at NCCA Gallery. There are also traveling exhibits on Oct. 20-25.

Leaders of almost 150 Indigenous peoples of the country will gather to discuss issues in their communities and seek solutions in a forum to be held Oct. 20-23 at the Museum of the Filipino People of the National Museum.

Entitled "Kabihasnan Ito Dito: Cultural Creativity in a Changing Environment," the conference will address IP concerns and will feature speakers and papers from Asia-Pacific countries. Sion Cortillera is conference director, Dr. Rolando Abaya is festival director.

For details, contact Merlito Tolosa, chief of the NCCA Planning Policy Development and Programming Division, at 527-2216; e-mail ncca_pao@gmail.com.

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In over eight years of creating developments with an inherent passion for innovation, Alveo Land has introduced an extensive portfolio of holistic communities attuned to the needs of a dynamic urban lifestyle.

Sheer foresight has allowed Alveo to produce groundbreaking plans that meet the needs of the market. The ideal approach in planning developments is understanding how people actually plan their lives – it's a long-term commitment that guides us in delivering the best products for our market,' says Jesus M. Abrajan, President of Alveo Land. 'Through real time reductions employed in our developments, we envision ideal residential living to equitable balance of work and play.'

Empowered by its unbiased enhancing the real estate landscape, Alveo reveals the proactive steps they have taken, which have consistently been evident in their developments and even in the communities around it. 'Our track record has proven that our pioneering developments are capable of bringing contributions to the progress of the growing cities where they're positioned,' says Abrajan. 'In the coming years, the promise of our company's innovations will ensure that Alveo will continue its efforts to build communities carved from our vision, creativity and drive.'

Adhering to five pillars, Alveo's benchmark for innovation defines homes whose needs are anchored on the ideals of innovating the way urbanites live.

Highly-Networked Location

The ideals of urban living come to life by making it possible to enjoy the right balance of accessibility and fresh spiritual ease. Alveo creates city-networked developments by strategically locating them at the heart of some of the most thriving cities and key growth centers, redefining the boundaries from north to south. This ensures proximate and residents have immediate access to good health care facilities, reputable schools, and business centers. Thus, entrepreneurs and office workers have a chance to thrive.

Customer-Relevant Products and Services

Alveo creates masterplanned communities that speak to the needs of its residents. With the intent of having residential spaces with leisure and business zones, Alveo continues to bring the dynamics of metropolitan living into its homes with innovative lifestyle concepts adjusted to the needs of the market.

For instance, Alveo devoted 60% of Two Serendra's 6.7-hectare land to sprawling open space and greenery. Taiwan to Nicosia, which is probably the most environmentally-oriented community to date, features sustainable innovations that introduce residents to life within a green and eco-friendly neighborhood.

Also, Alveo Land has introduced innovative townhouse concepts with projects like Celadon Residences in Manila and Aurevia Place in Pasig by breaking the traditional residential density into small communities clustered with lush landscaping and open spaces.

Superior Quality

Emerging technologies in the industry, combined with Alveo Land's propensity for innovation, ensure its developments conform to safety, quality, and lifestyle ideals. Alveo Land, for instance, highlights green roof technologies and cross ventilation systems to lessen the dependence on artificial air conditioning, true to its vision to provide sustainable and environmentally conscious developments.

Customer-Focused Service

Alveo Land's commitment has paved the way for living spaces that are sustained by the support and reliability of a team of industry professionals. 'More than a home, we want to metamorphose convenience and comfort to make residential living more enjoyable with the help of a full-service team who understands the needs of the residents,' shares Hong Teang, Alveo Land's Group Head for Project Development.

Vibrant and Dynamic Living

Busy lifestyles prompt the need to community interaction and bonds among like-minded individuals. This is why Alveo Land masterplans all its developments to be dynamic and vibrant, complementary to the way of life their residents lead.

Self-contained leisure facilities within the development like clubhouses, pools, and social halls are always created to highlight interaction among residents, yet there are also options to enjoy private time in areas like tranquil spas and meditation gardens.

Accordingly, these strong pillars, anchored on the vision of and strong innovation allow Alveo to build communities tailor-fit for its residents' urban lifestyles and diverse needs.

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■ 'Elven princess weds her Aragorn /F1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Ballsy, Pinky, Nina wear I Am Cory

Limited collection fuses art, history, retail—built on hope for young generation

GRACE and simplicity in fashion: The Aquino women in Baro I am Cory collection

IT WAS one of those rare afternoons when sisters Ballsy Aquino-Cruz and Pinky Aquino-Abellada with daughter Nina took time off from their busy schedules to sit and talk about their thoughts on a new tribute to the late President Cory Aquino.

"I really liked what I saw," said Ballsy. "They were very comfortable and how they used mom's art was creative."

The eldest of the Aquino siblings was talking about the new Baro I am Cory collection.

Baro, a popular fashion brand, joins the nation in celebrating the life of the most admired Filipina woman of our time with the Baro I am Cory Collection.

Its designs incorporate chosen artworks of former President Aquino.

Pinky Eusebio of Baro explained: "Baro has always been championing the fabulous Pinoy—Filipino and Proud...and who else could be more iconic in this respect than President Cory?"

The former President was the icon of democracy, a caring wife, an affectionate mother and grandmother, and a leader who made an impact on the lives of Filipinos. But, not known to many, she was also a painter.

In painting she saw a way to keep her mind active and her sense of humanity intact.

"I remember she always enjoyed painting ever since I was a kid," said Nina. "It's nice that people will get to see and know a different side of her."

The former President, under the mentoring of Jeff Consunno, enjoyed painting flowers and sunsets in oil or acrylic on canvas.

"The special Baro collection is a way for people to remember Mom and for those who haven't seen any of her artworks yet...at least they will be able to see them," added Ballsy.

Inspired by her colorful floral paintings, Baro's I am Cory Collection features staple clothes.

"To distinguish our collection, we thought of something not everybody knows about Mrs. Cory Aquino—her paintings," said Lynn Aguado of Baro.

The collection is classy and simple. Inspired by President Aquino's simplicity and grace.

The line consists of flower-pin shirts, scoop-neck shirts, striped tank tops, '50s-inspired dress, and chambray and striped polos with floral print and pockets.

There are also canvas bags with iconic prints of her landscape paintings, flower pin painting in full and magnified versions.

Sharing their favorite pieces among the collection, President Cory's daughters and granddaughter were asked about their preferences in clothing. The three agreed that comfort is top priority.

"I really liked the striped blouse with floral piping on pockets and sleeves," said Ballsy. "It's very comfortable. I liked how they had the flowers on the sleeves and pockets. Aliping napaisip yung flowers, sunsshine, lol, ito yung pinaiire ni Cory!"

Pinky loved all the clothes she

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Ballsy, Pinky, Nina wear I Am Cory

From page E1

BALLSY Aquino-Cruz snaps a classy pink-and-red pixie with flared prints on sleeves and pockets

IKAT Aquino wears one of her brother's paintings in this striped tank top

CARRY all the things you love to stress Bayo I am Cory floral canvas bag with flower-pot painting

PINK up any outfit with this cream scoop-neck shirt with former President Aquino's flower painting

PERFECT Aquino-Abrahada in gray scoop-neck shirt with flower-pot painting

SAY PARTY hosted by Brenda Mendiorena is an excuse to perfection. So it was when she hired three friends Florentino Avillo III, his wife Erica Lim Avillo, and their son Ikko Avillo.

There were flowers all over Brenda's Beverly Hills home. In the terrace alone there were blossomed such as many colors. In pots were bougainvillea, and on table centerpieces were clusters of white roses.

It was also an occasion to meet friends of the Avillos who had come from abroad to spend time enjoying Cebu's tourist spots. From Germany had come Manfred de Bhals, the Avillos' furniture business partner in Europe. With him was his wife Maria, and his son-by-an-earlier-marriage, Jean-de Mieth.

From California were another real estate broker Scott Shiker and his wife Barbara, a recruiting blonde. Scott plays good polo, and once raced cars with the late Hollywood actor, Steve McQueen. Barbara said she found everything about the Philippines quite fascinating.

From the Cebu end were residents Tessie Javier, Finky and Pinglip Chong, Connie Salinas, Flavie and Marilyn Lampert. Tessie's perfection extends to her choice of dishes for the menu, and that screaming glory of a dessert she and the others can prepare: ramon with strawberry.

Induction

Members and officers of the Cebu Bonsai Society and Cebu Suiseki Society are mostly the same, so they decided to hold a joint induction of officers at the Malvar Room of Cebu Country Club. It was a noticable valedictory for Erlinda Ty, outgoing president of both organizations, and now in each of their boards of directors.

Erlinda explains that bonsai is the Japanese art of dwarfing trees, and that name can be found in nature, among mountain crags at high altitudes. Suiseki has more to do with stones found in nature. Both make for more than just fascinating hobbies and they involve studies of NGAE particularly the leadership and formation programs.

"We want to deepen the engagement with young people," Tangco said. "We want young people in volunteer and spend time on selfless work. For natural them to foster inspiration and transformation from their own experiences and, from there, evolve into spiritually grounded leaders of the future."

"This partnership has given birth to a confluence of the arts, history, and fashion," said Carmen Bitong of Bayo.

"When asked if they think the former President would wear any of the pieces in the collection, she answer until she definitely would).

"In her younger years, she was really very daring to step donning pieces at Kenya Dwede style with shoreleave. I'm sure she will also be bringing those bags with her, giving clients lasting memories," Ballsy said.

"I remember the blue-colors that am happy she would also love the blouses," Pinky added.

"Since it is a Filipino-owned company, Bayo is also using Philippine for their fashion. It's really an honor for our family," she said.

Cebu's Bonsai Society and Suiseki Society officers inducted

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Piconell

ion in accordance

Invited to be the inducting of four was Dr. Thelma Bautista, dean of the Cebu Institute of Medicine. New officers of the Cebu Bonsai Society are Norma Sanchez, president; Dr. Librado "Jake" Macairan, VP; Joselito Alamedan, secretary; Ma. Theresa Enos and Imelda Arebedo, treasurers; and Augustino Labracay Rosales, PRO.

With Imelda the board of directors are Jesus Carmen, Dr. Wenderman, Leonidas Sanchez and Earl Sevilla. In the Suiseki Society Ada is president with Leonidas as VP, Josefito as secretary, Ma. Theresa and Imelda as treasurers, and Augustino as PRO.

The bonsai and Suiseki societies usually have joint exhibits that are well-attended. Their next may be during the first half of 2013.

Wedding anniversary

Allan and Camille Jose Buenconsejo Soares marked their 25th wedding anniversary with a solemn Mass of thanksgiving at the chapel of the Archbishop's Palace. Co-celebrants during the rites were Msgr. Sebastian Dakay and Msgr. Sebastio Alvarez.

The happy couple was surrounded by a large group of family members, between among them their three well-loved children Carlo, Andrei and Alyssa. Add to them Camille's mom Flora Villaruelas Buenconsejo, and her elder brother Dindo Buenconsejo with his children Alyssa and Ian.

The observance was capped by a dinner party at their family's Cebu Grand Hotel, where red- buffets were served. One had cold cuts and dessert, the other, hot dishes.

It was as well grandad that if dinner had been a rib on a the kitchen would have had the Top Secret label. A well had one give was put into action by Betty Boang (aka Mata Hari) at the bidding of her best friend Baby Capada-Smith.

Baby and Don Smith live in the 121 most of the time but when come to visit old friends and extended family Don's birthday was approaching, so Baby and Betty hatched a surprise party.

Don had no inkling, so when he left the house with Baby he thought they were going to one more in a constant whirl of dancing parties whenever Baby is in town.

"Are you sure there's anyone here, or are we too early?" Don fussed as he was led into a darkened Salon de Madrid at Casino Español de Cebu. In the blink of an eye the lights were on and a throng of well wishers started singing Happy Birthday.

Everyone wanted to kiss the birthday boy or shake his hand. Friends flowed, as everyone had. Jes was served, and Cebuano joke games did the delights of all. To burn calories there was Roland Suarez with his musical ensemble to play ballroom dancing for the rest of the night.

A recent food festival at the Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa was labelled "La Mesa: a Celebration of Noodles." It was held at the resort's Glasses specialty restaurant, Tea of Spring. The daily highlight was a demonstration of noodle pulling by an expert.

Chef Kan Yi Li had come from the Shangri-La's Golden Flower Hotel in Xian, China.

A group from media said yes to the kind invitation of communications manager Mildred Ramos, who welcomed all with her assistants Shea Bellino and Abdul Hadbi. Food and beverage director.

Inspection at one table was verbal pingpong. Who ate there? Stella Reed, Chinggay Urtasiran, Cookie Newman, Jigs Angeles, Norma Abanes, Marou Tan, Bobbi and Ayano Avila.

Appetizers were delicious but the raves were to the three entrees using the "pulled" noodles. The first had abalone; the second, lobster meatballs; and the finale, chili beef fillets flavored with coriander.

Quezon City celebrates La Naval feast; UST to stage 'Grand Living Rosary'

DEVOTEES OF Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of La Naval are faithfully going to Sto. Domingo Church for the novena Mass from Oct. 9, (Sat. Oct. 16, 4 p.m., they will attend the annual grand procession that will go around the streets of Quezon City.

Quezon City placed herself under the patronage of Our Lady of La Naval in 1973. The title was given to the Our Lady of the Rosary by the Spanish and Filipino naval forces who successfully defended the country in the 17th century against the Dutch invasion.

La Naval statue is to be enthroned in the old Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros, but when the war arrived, it had to be hidden in the church vault in 1941. It remained the hiding place, and the image was transferred to the University of Sto. Tomas chapel and in October, 1946, the Thanksgiving celebration of her devotion took place and thousands of people visited her there.

In 1952, the cornerstone of a new church was laid in Quezon City and in 1954, a boat-shaped sarcophagus carrying the Virgin of La Naval was brought in a procession from Espana to the new Sto. Domingo Church on Quezon Avenue, but now shrine. That same day, Sto. Domingo Church was declared by church authorities as the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Naval.

Thomasians form grand rosary

In thanksgiving for its 400th anniversary next year as Asia's oldest university, the University of Santo Tomas shall pray the rosary together and form the Grand Living Rosary on the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary on Oct. 7, at 3:30 p.m. along the main roads of the campus.

The event is dubbed "Salamat Po Nang Marie: UST's Grand Living Rosary."

The prayer-event hopes to unite the UST community, alumni, friends, supporters and all Marian Filipinos in prayer and gratitude for the gift of 400 years to Asia's only pontifical university, and to deepen the Filipino devotion to the Blessed Mother.

The activity is one of the highlights of the quadricentennial anniversary celebration of the university, emphasizing that an integral part of the life and history of the Pontifical University is its tireless devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Dominican congregation, Regina Pacandi, led by Sr. Sylvia Duazo, its Provincial will undertake a tour of Mexico on Oct. 12, with events in the United States.

It is primarily a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of the most popular Marian pilgrimage sites in the world. In many churches, her image is ornamented because she's well-known for her miraculous intervention. Her image said to have been imprinted miraculously on the Indian side cloth or tilma... is prominently displayed in her altar unaccupied to time. Those who want to join the pilgrimage can call 528.1611 or 0224.1611.

Highlighting the 400th founding anniversary of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, a Marian exhibit is running at the Harrison Plaza Mall until Oct. 7. The exhibit is organized by Mark Louie, Arcadio Orlando Jennings and Mrs. Theresa T. Pulido.

Dubbed as "Ina Rosarium," the exhibit features life-size statues of the Blessed Mary as Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and other Marian exhibit committee chairman is Jose Noli.

Guests during the opening were Assistant to the Vatican Nuncio Jose Yasoni, Consuls Louie and Mollie Abbass, fashion designer Claudia Lozada, Jorge Allen Singco of the Cathedral de la Inmaculada Concepcion and Victoria Rogers-Burgess.

A three-foot statue of St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, was enshrined at Our Lady of the Pilar Chapel in San Manuel Catholic Church in A. S. Fortuna of the Silverio Virgin Mary. Opus Dei was founded on Oct. 2, 1928 and Josemaria Escriva was canonized on Oct. 6, 2002 in Rome. Those who wish to have prayed such sanctuary or send Philippine Daily Inquirer at Opus Dei Ave., Makati City. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for personal delivery.

A procession Marian exhibit was also opened and blessed by Cardinal Rosales before the Mass at 6 p.m. By the way Msgr. Nestor Cortez holds a healing Mass every Saturday at 7:30 a.m.

Colleges of the Holy Spirit

The Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (HSSP) are looking forward to the celebration of the Centenary of the College of the Holy Spirit Manila (CHSM) which they put up in 1911. Giving them support is the CHSM Alumni Association which held an afternoon kick-off program at the Centro Escolar Gallery inside the campus. It is a joint venture of CHSM and the Ninth Camp School of the Growing Star Tourism Academy that Cruises headed by Raymundo Cometa as director. The venue will provide training for HSSM Tourism students of the College and those of other schools for a possible OJT tie-up.

Provincial Superior Sr. Eden Bargadillo cut the ribbon, while CHSM chaplain Fr. Virgel Magsalin, SVD blessed the café. The alumni were surrounded by the Imaginary Sentral ng Pilipinas Dervish organically invited by CHSM board member Guillermina Ong (BS 1961, Tabadia done pieces included enlightenment, several copies of a book authored and personally signed by Elizabeth Vasquez Zeigler (HS '71), donation of a painting by Filipino Red Bishop Javier (HS '72), cards and gift certificates that were raffled off. Cruz Sangcaya-Macaraeg (HS '73) was emcee.

The most important part of the afternoon, however, was the presentation by CHSM pres-

OUR Lady of the Rosary of La Naval, patroness of Quezon City

AT THE CHS tea party, HCHSAF president Yolanda Alfaro, Greg Ong, board member Sr. Victoria Rosario, Sr. Generosa Salas, CHSM principal Fr. Noble Jose, CHSAU secretary, and Grace Nacorda, treasurer with staff at Cross Quezon Cafe.

Filipina model spotted with Prince Andrew spills the beans

IN ITS October edition, LifestyleAsia has an exclusive interview with Alexandra Exner where she talks about speculations on her relationship with Prince Andrew.

Managing editor Cheryl Tiu flew to Spain for a tête-à-tête with the Madrid-born model. Exner is best known as the cover of the October issue. Exner speaks about her Filipino heritage, her life and career in the European continent and separates fact from fiction in the royal encounter which recently put her in non-lid media.

The recently luxury magazine published by the Mega Publishing Group is now available in bookstores and mag racks stands.

Guinness-bound: Thousands of UST students, faculty and alumni as well as Marian devotees will form the biggest living rosary on Oct. 7

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

Filipino hosts St. Michael feast

The St. Michael Chapel in Valenzuela, Las Piñas, was all spruced up in time for the feast day of St. Michael on Sept. 29. Parishioners worked together to finance the beautification project spearheaded by Bro. Boy Mercado, coordinator for the St. Michael Chapel Pastoral Council.

Please help

Dr. Lalaine Regadas called my attention to the need to help 21-year old Ubrel Bagallo, a vendor in Divisoria, Manila, as could have a kidney transplant due to his having sustained chronic glomerulo-nephritis that requires dialysis everyday.

His father will donate his kidney, but financial help is needed to pay for the operation at the National Kidney Institute. To help, please see his uncle, Fr. Gregorio Bagallo, at 0908-379-7656 or 895-969-0000.

Nuestra Señora del Rosario de la Strada is now enthroned at the Presentacion #7 in Cubao, Jesus Parish on 07 Pentecost until Oct. 9, 2010.

Grandest Lights and Sounds Show Highlights 2010 San Miguel Oktoberfest Welcome

September 25, 2010, Pasay City – Hotel-packed Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila (SPPM) welcomed the grandest Oktoberfest ever! Dressed with the most ambitious lights and sounds show in the country, on top of the hottest live acts, exciting games and endless food at all our favorite Oktoberfest hangout spots!

The much-anticipated San Miguel Oktoberfest will kick off first in Metro Manila at the SM Mall of Asia Concert Grounds. Event Sponsor SM Mall of Asia will serve up the ultimate projector extravaganza of a series of 11 audio-visual presentations that narrates the same technology used in New York, Paris, London, Sydney and Tokyo.

Perhaps in Prague, The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and Metropolitan Manila's Philharmonic Orchestra will join forces to perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Opus 125 "Choral" and Wagner's Tannhäuser Overture. Also, Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, or the Irish Rag Jig-Jog, the Waltz Hypnotic, Redemption Anthem are San Miguel Beer Italian Intense, Jamaica's Lambada Marine Jamaican and Pierre Thiele Intense.

Two years San Miguel Oktoberfest went to Subzero The Polar Extreme Quiet. Against making it's debut as the coldest party ever! Imagine being in the middle of a winter wonderland! Complete with snow machines, Santa's Workshop, Christmas Carols and Mobile Interactive players simply have to step into the world of the San Miguel Oktoberfest Limited Edition Polar Winter Collection at the night award-winning San Miguel Beer Oktoberfest Pavilion! Be the first to experience a snow-laden, polar-inspired collection of San Miguel Oktoberfest!

For more information, visit www.sanmiguel.com.ph/oktoberfest.

(From left) Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila Executive Pastry Chef Christophe Delcourt, Executive Chef Jean-Michel Lesage, Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila General Manager Alain Dominique Gras, San Miguel Brewery Inc. – Head of Trade Development Jose Ma. Arnaldo, San Miguel Brewery Inc. – Head of Trade Marketing Ms. Rosario "Rosey" de Guzman, San Miguel Brewery Inc. – Head of Trade Development Ms. Kristine Gabriel Tiaoqui, Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila Executive Sous Chef Jean-Pierre

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IN THIS ISSUE
■ I love Venus Raj's 22-inch waistline /A11

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

'Elven princess' weds her Aragorn

The spark that drew Gem and Nick to each other five years ago was a common interest in 'The Lord of the Rings'

GEM Pacillo-Thomas and Nick Thomas

By Maricia Abad Santos Benipayo
Contributor

IT WAS TRULY a beautiful day for a wedding. Last Sept. 11, former Ms. Philippines-Universe Gem Barad-Melilla and Cathay Pacific Capt. Nick Thomas exchanged wedding vows at the breathtaking Cabrenga chapel of the Dominican Sisters in Sampaloc, Batangas.

Witnessing the simple rites officiated by Fr. Allen de Guzman were immediate family members. Nick's mom and siblings flew in from Hamilton, New Zealand, a few days before the wedding.

The bride's sister, Genna, stood as maid of honor, while Denise Weidenhoffer-Abesamis, Patty Berbis, Sara Jane Paez-Santiago and I assisted in the wedding

(CONTINUED ON PAGE C11)

A 'duwende' tale

By Chin Melchor Wechsanna Cosico
Contributor

ONCE UPON a time, I was a very committed housewife—ever so all desperate. My husband, an architect, is a good provider. He is not a millionaire but he is a faithful husband who goes to work at 7 a.m. and comes home before 7 p.m.

I was used to a husband who would appreciate my efforts to make myself more attractive, but my husband is not that way at all. Perhaps because he is diabetic and almost half blind, he seldom shows appreciation. Anyway, I am happy as his being a good provider, having a good mind and heart, and mostly because he is a prayerful man who will help me get to heaven.

One morning, I was at my drawing table painting on lipstick when I accidentally dropped my lipstick on the floor. I bent quickly to pick it up but could not find it. I called Bess, my loyal maid, and she looked

A DUWENDE (1)

'Don't you know that Blue Ridge is well-known as a haven for 'duwendes' and white ladies?'

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'Elven princess' weds her Aragorn

From page F1

preparations and ceremony proper.

The beaming bride wore a resplendent bone-white ballerad silk chiffon gown by Renee Salud. The groom was in a Nehru collared barong with cutwork embroidery by Randy Ortiz.

Most memorable were the personalized marriage vows exchanged by the couple.

The oath that drew Geir and Nick to each other five years ago was a testament to terror in the book, "The Lord of the Rings." So as Geir declared the words, "I am, and will always be your constant, your Elven princess...," there wasn't a shortage of smiles and tears of joy.

To Geir and Nick, here's to more blissful years and happy chores!

OFF TO live happily ever after

COCKTAILS and dinner were held at Antonio's Garden in Tagaytay

GROUP shot on the church steps after the wedding, showing the breath-taking facade of Calamuuga chapel

THE RADIANT newlyweds

NICE! Lenore Barbara Thomas, Benjamin Thomas, Mrs. Sally Thomas-Cooper, Jason Cooper and Mick's best friend, Darrel Norton

GDH Llandy Noel Padilla (brother), Nicole Arboleda, Kenlee Padilla (father), Geir and Nick, Mariel Padilla (mother), Queen Padilla (sister), Emanuel Padilla (brother, with his wife Jenny and children Pia and Lucy

WET hairstyle artist Jia Lozada and Jing Mesia of Jing Mesia Propaganda Salon

GDH with gracious mom Mariel Bacol-Padilla

MODEL bride

THE GROOM with his mom Barbara Thomas, his brother Benjamin Thomas, sister Sally Thomas-Cooper and her husband, Jason Cooper

GDH with BFFs Patty Banks, Desiree Verdadero-Alpasanta, Sara Jane Poza-Santiago and Phobia Bonjayon

GDH with her equally gorgeous sisters, Emma Padilla-Ira Jan Garcia-Enaya

THE GROOM and his buddies, designer Jan Garcia, Doc JB Alexandre of Anesthesia Dapaizon Clinic/Hospital, and Nisanur F. Santiago, marketing director of Evaporomin in Jakarta, Indonesia

Milestones

We welcome announcements of wedding and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a detail of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 2103 Makati Central Post Office, 1252 Makati City. E-mail to lifesty@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required for the wedding but still subject to space availability and at no cost to the senders.

DANO-JARLEGO

Anton Dano, son of Butch and Betta Dano, will wed Jacinta Jarlego, daughter of Eduardo and Yolanda Jarlego, on Oct. 2 at the Church of Our Lady of Montserrat, Loyola Heights, QC. Kiki Nanda designed the bride's gown in ivory pebble georgette. The single-shoulder bodice is mixed with French chantilly lace, embellished with corset beads, iridescent paillettes and seed pearls. Reception will follow at the CSI Club House, Marikina City.

PUNGALAN DEBUT

Hilton Mario Asemiento Pungalan, daughter of Larry and Bing Pungalan will celebrate her 18th birthday on Oct. 13, at Chateau Hotel, Las Vegas Nevada. She's a senior student at Sierra Vista High School, Las Vegas, Nevada. The debutante will wear a red taffeta gown with detachable skirt, beaded in assorted silver cut beads with rhinestones designed by Leonard Co.

SEBASTIAN-CHICANO

Johanna Sebastian, son of Bishop Jonathan Sebastian and Pastor Victoria Sebastian, will wed Hazel Ereana Mae Chicano, daughter of Nelson Chicano and Emmanuela Chicano, on Oct. 14, at Water Symph Resort, Marikina City. Wedding planners are Reyan Quisadio and Joy Pantanes of Ideal Affairs.

San Sebastian Mass heralds Belgian assumption of EU presidency

BELGIUM RECENTLY celebrated the opening of its presidency of the Council of the European Union through a thanksgiving mass at San Sebastian Basilica.

This is the 12th time Belgium is holding the presidency since the foundation of the European Union (from the European Economic Community) in 1958.

Christian Shweisthaal, the Belgian ambassador to the Philippines, cited a long and diverse history of Belgian-Filipino ties. From the LRT, the quiet south of a lot of Metro and Belgian thrillers and thrillers, to the steel edifice of San Sebastian Basilica, which was produced in Belgian foundries.

Alistair MacDonald, ambassador of the European Union, added that the Philippines and Europe have been working together to promote their common goals of the bilateral, regional and global levels.

"Economically, the EU is among the largest single export market for the Philippines, just as European companies are consistently among the largest investors to the Philippines," he said.

Currently, there are around a million Filipinos living and working in Europe. In addition, Europe has long been an important partner in the fight against poverty both through the EU and programs and through those of individual EU member-states.

The Philippines is the second Asian country, next to Indonesia, to conclude a new EU-Philippines Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the EU. That agreement allows a richer framework from which to strengthen EU-Philippine collaboration in areas such as political dialogue, trade and investment, justice and security, energy, climate, and economic and development cooperation.

ALISTAIR Macdonald

A 'duwende' tale

From page F1

under the dresser and the whole bathroom. She couldn't find it.

I brushed the incident aside as simply exceptionable.

Then a week later, I was putting on my favorite earrings, the angular dangling style which are basically simple. I reached for the second right earring. Only it was gone. Again, I rolled these to look for it everywhere.

Again, the search was futile and I brushed it off as another unexplainable incident.

Cell phone

Later my cell phone disappeared in my bedroom. Bone and I searched the whole house.

Two weeks later, my cell phone was found on the living room coffee table. "Here," my husband stated knowledgeably. "You probably only misled it."

One day, my indispensable remote control disappeared from my bedroom. The remote control is a necessary appendage in my TV set. I now have to run from bed to turn on or off the TV, even to change the channels and to make the volume lower or higher. It was a real tragedy! I was livid!

I called up my close friend who is a neighbor. She patiently listened to my story, then very calmly said, "Chito, don't you think that Elise Hidge is well known as a haven for duwendes and white ladies with all the large unexplained?"

There are so many enormous fruit-bearing trees all over the village.

Talking to my other neighbors consoled me that I was not alone. Although my friends have never seen them, they described duwendes as tiny invisible creatures who abound in big, leafy trees.

Duwendes cannot be seen by human eyes, and they never like fighting or in the blink of an eye. They can go through thick walls and locked doors. And they are usually mischievous!

My husband never believed in them but my mind was open.

'Exiled'

The maid downstairs always had baksh treated for the duwendes. She was getting furious from the banana tree in my backyard when the first baksh appeared. Sometimes her feet would get swollen—caused by the duwendes again.

From that on, I warn anyone who goes to my backyard, to say "Tabi, tabi! Makiraan kung po ako." This phrase has made me free from baksh and swollen feet.

Lost and found began a regular game in our house. My shoes and keys would get lost, but they would show up again after a few days in another room.

Even my wardrobe was not spared—my blouses and especially my glasses. But they were all returned eventually.

Magically, my beloved remote control reappeared on my bed! It had disappeared three months ago, so I was surprised at its return.

Wallets

Then my wallets began to get thinner. I kept some dollars in my lingerie drawer where no one could find it. I used it only for ready cash. But one day I unlocked my drawer to get my wallet but my wallet was empty! Poof—cheap $100 bills all gone! I was hopelessly desperate!

Several months later my husband brought home his half month's salary. He convinced me to change the place where I keep my cash. So I did—I put his money in a heavy book folder in my closet. To my surprise, all the money I had put in early the night before was gone! This was a shock to me!

If I were a cry-baby, I would have cried on a river, but I am not, so I became doubly, hopelessly desperate!

My friend suggested having my house blessed so I called Father Orly, a priest who sometimes says Mass in our barangay hall when I run the house.

Our house was blessed 20 years ago, but I welcomed a second blessing. Father came on a Monday afternoon. He was as kind and gentle, reassuring me that after the blessing everything will be okay.

Virgie, my female gardener, gave me the name of Dolly, an old woman, who could talk directly to the duwendes. He all agreed to meet on Friday, which was a good day (aside from Tuesday) to commune duwendes.

But after Sally left, my interest seemed disappeared again!

White chickens

The following Friday, Sally arrived bringing all the paraphernalia needed. I had given her P500 in bay and bring them here. The two white chickens were already killed and dressed. The upper portion will be for the duwendes, the lower portion for the family. I offered Sally half of this—which she gladly accepted.

Sally prepared two trays with sticks, pasta, matapat, gin, tobacco and the chicken blood which she placed under the banana tree and in my bathroom, since that was the place where the young duwendes played.

When Sally left, I made a newspaper burning over the trays, knowing that if my husband saw it, he would really flip off.

Early the next day, Rose and I took away the tray. The glass with gin was still full but fruity tasted bone and that the duwendes had breathed on it enough.

The next Sunday I excitedly ripped a new P500 bill in my wallet for safekeeping in my bag, then locked the room to my bedroom. After lunch, I found the wallet empty!

So far, the duwendes are winning. But Sally assures me they will return everything they took. They have no need for cash but they play with the bills like in a game. She says to give them more time.

Intrigue is not one of my virtues—although I should—though my fully God is saving me by giving me this problem. I will not give up. I am not the type to hold my tongue from to the everywhere I go. So now, instead, I'll have to put on a happy face everywhere I go.

My daughter-in-law I am going mad and I really don't could be, with all these problems—like how to hide the cash from the duwendes. They can make the cash disappear just like my lipstick disappears!

This last paragraph is strictly for the duwendes only!

Duwendes!

Please bring back $400, P50,000, my husband's sandals, slippers and cell phone. Also, please don't forget my beloved remote control and my right dangling earring!

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Surname issue creates problem for him who wants to remarry

DEAR EMILY,

I've been a seaman for the past 18 years, married for 25 years and have five children. I thought my wife and I had a good marriage. We were happy and loved each other very much. I have been a good husband, father and provider to my family. In 2006, everything changed.

My uncle, who adopted me when both my parents died, called me to say that my wife is "playing with fire" after someone sent her bringing a man inside my house. In the middle of the night, her brought men problem in my house in the period that there was "domestic trouble." They found this man hiding under the bed. Upon questioning, he told policemen that he is my wife's relative. He refused to offer any more explanation and, with no evidence in sight to pursue the matter, my uncle couldn't prove any wrongdoing was committed.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Manzo

So here I am so far away from home, terribly lonely, a martyr, and just learning what to do. I cannot file anything against my wife for lack of evidence, I was told.

I met a wonderful woman I want to start a new life with—but I cannot marry her.

My problem is I've had two names growing up because I was a late child. In my baptismal certificate, I am listed using my biological father's name. In all my documents and legal papers, I have been using my mother's name. Is it possible to use my father's name so I can get married again and start life anew?

—C.D.

Don't compound a problem with a problem.

Did you know that you've only lived together as husband and wife for five of your 25 years of marriage? If you've been a seaman the last 18 years, it is reasonable to conclude you've only seen your family 10 times—if indeed you had access to a yearly vacation! Did you think that was enough to sustain a relationship?

Ever thought how you and your wife got to where you are now?

Taking care of five children, alone, is not an easy task, despite having help available. Your wife had to be both father and mother to them—and bear their childhood tantrums, teenage hard-headedness, puppy love anxieties, school difficulties, etc. Have you thought about that?

Then you found this wonderful, perfect woman you've been dreaming about all your life. You want to marry her and even think of doing something illegal to have her as soon as possible.

But before putting the last touches to the fantasy life you are creating in your mind for her—remember the wife who has stood by you and made you happy for 25 years. This same wife who now leaves a bad taste in the mouth because she "played with fire." Hum, you were having your balls all this time giving your family a good life, the devoted husband and father who was sending them everything money could buy. And for all your sacrifices, you've been excluded? What a blow to your ego! But, can you honestly look her in the eye and say you never had the roving eyes yourself? Never succumbed to any temptation at all? Scary a girl in any port—in your whole 18 years as a seaman?

After weighing all these and you still, truly, want to start a new life—make it a priority to iron out the issues you are learning. Spend for an annulment that will definitely cost you a pretty penny—and come away clean. There are no shortcuts to it.

And while you're at it, think again. Long and hard. How sure are you that your own marriage would be any better?

E-mail emanzo@inquirer.com.ph; subject: Lifestyle

Cooking demo

THE ACADEMY of Culinary Education will hold a cooking demonstration and dinner for a cause featuring Philippine cuisine on Oct. 5, 6 p.m., at the Academy of Culinary Education (ACE), Los Angeles, California. Proceeds will be donated to Gawad Kalinga. Chef Cecilia de Castro of ACE will conduct the demo.

To sign up or for further information, call 818-907-2305 (ACE) or visit www.academyofculinaryeducation.com. Call Maria Ortiz Foundation Inc. at 7264435 or 7264451. Featured dishes include Duet d'entrées: Fried Mini Lumpia (eggrolls) filled with ground pork, shrimp and vegetables, Mini Chicken Adobo Pandesal (Philippine BBQ) on Bamboo Skewers, Calderetang Bangus (Milkfish stew) Sisig, Sinigang, Twice Salad, Pansit Bihon Guisado and Spicy Beef Caldereta.

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Jesse and Aika Robredo and their Naga

Naga was one of the first Spanish settlements in the Philippines, and was the site of the first normal school for women in the Philippines, the Universidad de Sta. Isabel

AS FATHER and daughter, Jesse and Aika Robredo share many things in common. Their love for their home city of Naga and the Nagueños, their close family ties, and affiliation with the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

Jesse received the 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, which recognized his giving credence to the promise of

LOCAL Government Secretary Jesse Robredo and daughter Aika (right) at the My City, My SM launch in Naga with SM's Hilda Ekson, DOT Regional Director Nini Rarcellis and Naga City Mayor, lawyer John Bongat

my city
my SM
Why I love Naga
Faith, Family and Naga
Why I love SM
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JESSE and Aika Robredo in front of the Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, which was built in 1932 as the new home of the Patroness of Bicol. The Basilica, which has a stained-glass circular ceiling by Fausto Paiso depicting the history of the devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia, is where the Translacion begins when the image is solemn processed overnight to the Naga Cathedral. The image of Ina is then brought back here after the fluvial parade along the Naga River.

Naga is rich in culture and history. It is one of the first Spanish settlements in the 15th century. The city is host to the only regional fiesta in the Philippines—the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, which is celebrated on the third Saturday of September, not only in the Philippines but also all over the world. The devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia symbolizes the religiosity and faith of the Nagueños.

Jesse and Aika Robredo and their Naga

AIKA Robredo at the Plains & Prints store at SM City Naga.

From page N-1

democracy by demonstrating that effective city management is compatible with yielding power to the people," Aika, on the other hand, was in third year high school in 1993 when she won the grand prize in the High School Category of the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition, which was organized to provide the youth with a connection to the remarkable lives and work of the Magsaysay awardees.

They were asked to write an essay about the 1M Awardee who inspired them most. Aika's winning entry, "Inspiring Me to Make a Difference: Personal Lessons from a Magsaysay Awardee" was about her father.

Individually, father and daughter have their own remarkable achievements. Jesse, who was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons in the World in 1995, had a brief stint in the corporate world, has been active in government service as Mayor of Naga City for many years, transforming the city for being re-performing to one of the "Most Improved Cities in Asia," as chosen by Asiaweek Magazine in 1999.

His efforts to make Naga "a first-class city with a local government driven by a culture of excellence, and a citizenry with the will and capability to help themselves" have brought his home city many citations as Most Competitive City in Asia by the UN's Foreign Direct Investment Magazine in 2000, Model City for Government Procurement for the World Bank and Procurement Reform in 2000, and the Dubai International Award for Improving the Living Environment from UN-Habitat in 1998. Today, he continues to serve the government as Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Aika, who graduated with a BS Management Engineering degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, is now a Management trainee at Chevron Philippines. As we celebrate the Sesquicentenary of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, father and daughter take us around their beloved Naga and their SM

Local delicacies like 'laing,' Bicol express and 'pinangat,' while uniquely Bicolano, have their own Naga version

THE ROBREDOS, Jesse, Levi Gerrera-Robredo, Aika, Jasmine Patricia and Jillian Therese, at Tribes Grill, one of their favorite restaurants in SM City Naga.

'SM City Naga has made Nagueños part of the SM shopping experience, even if they live in a provincial city. When in the mall, we like to go to Biggs Diner and are very fond of Cerealicious and Zagu. I'm also pleased that some of my favorite stores have Naga branches'

NAGA Metropolitan Cathedral, built in 1825, is among the biggest churches in the region. During the Peñafrancia Fiesta, the image of Our Lady is placed here for nine days where the novena is held in her honor. The Peñafrancia Shrine, on the other hand, was the original home of the Patroness of Bicol. Built in 1710, this is where the Translacion used to begin before the construction of the Basilica Minore.

The Naga Metropolitan Cathedral and the Peñafrancia Shrine, along with the Basilica Minore, form part of the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, where hundreds of devotees to an annual pilgrimage fulfill a 'panata'

Naga is not a place. Naga is about the Nagueno who has evolved over the years influenced by its history, culture, and religiosity. The Nagueno demonstrates the hospitality of the typical, old-fashioned Bicolano: 'malumbing, mabait, maunawain at matulungin.' At the same time, because of the significant level of urbanization, he also possesses the modernity and sophistication of urban residents.'

THE ROBREDOS with the people of Naga, whom they describe as "very enterprising, very resilient and are willing to make sacrifices for the good of the city." As such, they have become "an inspiration, the motivation and reason for bringing the city to higher heights."

'SM City Naga has changed the shopping lifestyle of the Nagueño. It has set higher standards for customer satisfaction and service. It has become a new benchmark for entrepreneurial activities, influencing how you do business not only in Naga but also in the adjoining towns and cities'

142-YEAR-OLD Universidad de Sta. Isabel

COLLECTION of ecclesiastical treasures from the different dioceses of Bicolandia

Naga City—showcase of heritage and unwavering faith

By Fran Kalaylan

It's one of the first four colonial cities in Southeast Asia, along with Cebu, Manila's Intramuros and Vigan's Villa Fernandina

NAGA Metropolitan Cathedral

ON HOLD to see the religious structures in Naga to fall from the Bicolanos' 300-year-old devotion to "Ina," a term of endearment for their patroness, Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

Called Ciudad de Nueva Caceres under the Spanish occupation, Naga was among the first four colonial cities in Southeast Asia. It shares the distinction with Cebu, formerly Santisimo Nombre de Jesus; Manila's Intramuros and Vigan's Villa Fernandina.

These colonial cities imbibed cultural and religious influences, many of which still exist in the form of urban design and architecture reminiscent of ancient Spain.

As the seat of the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres, Naga has become the center of Roman Catholic faith in Bicolandia. Then a key component of the urban layout is the ecclesiastical center, composed of religious institutions such as schools, clerical residences and places of worship.

Originally built near the Naga river banks, the spiritual hub had to be relocated after 1911, when a powerful earthquake caused all the ecclesiastical structures to collapse, said Bikolano historian Danilo Madrid Semora.

Learning institution

Seminario Conciliar de Nueva Caceres, one of the oldest learning institutions outside Metro Manila, is a National Historic Landmark. It has branched out from theological studies and formation in collegiate studies since it was renamed Seminario del Santisimo Rosario in 1925.

Physical expansion also took place, with two sides — Holy Rosary Minor Seminary and Holy Rosary Major Seminary — addressing the growth in student population.

Bearing the honor of an NHI landmark, the Minor Seminary has a showcase of religious paraphernalia called Museo del Seminario Conciliar de Nueva Caceres. The neighboring archeological museum features artifacts on loan to the diocese from the Ateneo de Naga collection.

Both repositories of history are open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and by appointment Saturday-Sunday.

Another historically prominent school in Bicol is the 142-year-old Universidad de Sta. Isabel. Founded by 25th Caceres Bishop Francisco Gainza, OP, Nula's first normal school was built and just as a training ground of teachers for the region but also as a means of raising the status of women at a time of overwhelming patriarchy, said Semora.

Despite adapting to the times — shifting to Nursing as the school's flagship program — Sta. Isabel continues to pay tribute to its roots.

The university has embarked on a yearlong celebration to commemorate the death anniversaries of its founders, St. Louise de Marillac and St. Vincent de Paul, who formed the Daughters of Charity, said Marivelle I. Abrigo, dean of graduate studies and director of Research Development Center.

The campus also tends to as archives and museum of books, artworks and memorabilia that chronicle Sta. Isabel's history.

Mother of Bicol cathedrals

Among the churches established during colonial times was the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral. The mother of all cathedrals in Bicol represents the grandeur of Spanish architecture, said Semora. In fact, one of the original edifice's special features is the use of silica, or rubblework, which strengthens walls and foundations through cut stone.

Basilica Minore, the newer, bigger shrine of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, welcomes the deluge of pilgrims. The image was previously kept at Peñafrancia Church, but the small edifice could no longer suffice as the number of devotees increased.

Huge stained-glass works depicting mysteries like Stations of the Cross, by Bicolano artist Pancho Plano, adorn the basilica. Plano also created the stained-glass dome centerpiece at the Metropolitan Cathedral courtyard.

Bicol's devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia celebrates its tercentenary this year and, based on the state of Naga's religious structures, the faith shows no signs of waning.

MOTHER of all Bicol cathedrals expresses the grandeur of Spanish architecture

HOLY Rosary Minor Seminary, National Historic Landmark

DIVINE SAVIOR egg at archeological museum in Holy Rosary Seminary compound

MAIN altar of Metropolitan Cathedral

HOLY image in golden crowns

SEMINARY'S quiet hallway

ANCIENT religious figurines at Museo del Seminario Conciliar de Nueva Caceres

PEÑAFRANCIA church, where the image of Ina was originally kept

STAINED-GLASS dome ceiling at the Naga cathedral's courtyard

MUSE stained-glass art at Basilica Minore, home of Our Lady of Peñafrancia

ALMEDA ancestral house

Almeda house, Roco memorabilia, ecology park–Naga's attractions

HIGHLIGHTS from Raul Roco Museum—trademark Hawaiian shirts and, below, furniture gifts to the Bikolano lawmaker

By Fran Kastphok

NAGA MAY BE just another stopover for most visitors headed to other parts of the Bicol region, but the city is developing ways to attract tourists of different sorts.

Those who love old structures and interiors can visit the Almeda ancestral house, one of a few existing in the city.

Built in 1847 by Dr. Dominador Almeda, the house was designed with features typical of the era, such as sliding capiz windows, wood-an ceiling and wall treatments, spacious sala-mom area, run to wall dividers and a layout that allows natural light to fill the interiors.

Roco memorabilia

Admirers of Sen. Raul Roco will be delighted with the variety of memorabilia left behind by the Bikolano lawmaker, who passed away in 2005, displayed in a building named after him.

The collection includes black-and-white photos, credit cards, air miles membership cards, passports, shoes, toiletry-travel kits, books, front-page magazine covers, certificates, collection of metal and ceramic serving urnes, school medals, personal effects like combs, eyewear, cologne bottles, windbreakers, neckties, campaign giveaways of hats, stickers, ballroom attire, and, of course, trademark Hawaiian floral shirts.

The building also has a library equipped with WiFi. Open for membership, it contains magazines, journals, children's books, general interest books, local published work and those written about Bicol.

Bonding with nature

Nature enthusiasts can enjoy a picnic at Naga City Ecology Park. The property is dotted with trees, and has kiddie swings, see-saws, slides, picnic benches and tables, plus arboreal-theme nooks like Gingerbread House, The Animal Kingdom and Frog Prince mini pool.

Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., the park requires a P20 entrance fee.

Tourists who prefer a bodyscape of sights and activities will soon have their very own venue Debosing before the month-end is the Agri-Tourism Farm project of Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte.

Tourists who prefer a bodyscape of sights

MODERN cabanas at Agri-Tourism Farm

I-RRIGTAME project in San Bernardino has fishponds and crab ponds

IMAGINE picnicking at this cozy spot in Naga City Ecology Park

GROWING greens on a stairway at Agri-Tourism Farm

POOLS such as this one will have inflatables in all shapes and sizes for Agri-Tourism Farm visitors to enjoy.

NATURAL light fills the interiors of the Almeda ancestral home built in 1847.

Located on a 10-hectare property in San Bernardino, the project has three components.

The agricultural component involves growing organic produce in greenhouses and open fields. There will be clusters of fruit trees, free-range poultry, fishponds, oil-pond and duck pond.

Another component, food processing, entails post-harvest processing of fish (thereby providing choice cuts) and only grower in the component but also those bought from San Miguel Bay.

There will be a coconut-processing plant, for the production of value products like sugar, lyrup, vinegar and Tuba.

Healthy agri-tourism

A third aspect is tourism, which features accommodations (cabanas, tents-for-rent, bahay-kubo with a nature-nothing), spa, physical fitness programs (walking, jogging, bicycling, riding electric scooters, dancing lessons), swimming pool with inflatables, boating/rafting, fishing (sea), souvenir and gift shop, photography shop and studio, picnic grounds with bonfire areas.

A culinary school will be opened, as well as dormitories for foreign students who wish to learn English while experiencing organic farming.

The idea, said the senior Villafuerte, is to promote healthy agriculture and tourism. Once the first three components are up and running, he plans to add a fourth, a craft village for pottery and indigenous crafts-making.

BUKID Salad

DALLEO spareribs

BICOL Express

KARE-KARE

TABLEO Grill in SM City Naga

LAING

Rich, spicy and filling flavors of Naga

By Irene C. Perez

CROWN Park Rice

FOUR Seasons

Lugaw with tokwa

ADOBO Rice

SPARERIBS A. Rice

CAKE Lucia, White Mocha Java Frost and Strawberry Cake

DORE Cake

FOOD-COURT FAVORITES

WESTERN Plate's Sizzling Squid

SEAFOOD Laoton Kamali and Laing

NAGA Gardens's Pancit Sotanghon bihon pairedwith Baked Oysters

ICE Blaster's Hyla-Hula Supreme

'Pasalubong' from Naga

CHOCOLATES to-go with pili nuts

By Irene C. Perez

NEVER LEAVE Naga without these "pasalubong" items for your friends and loved ones. Buy assorted pili-nut bites. Take advantage of "tex." Bicol's patroness which recently celebrated it's 400th year with a grand fluvial fiesta with you. It shop for colorful souvenirs from an ever-growing line-up designer.

MINIATURE of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, Naga's patroness, available in different sizes in Basilica in SM City Naga

LAMANAKU. Pasalubong Center in SM City Naga

BASILICA religious shop in SM City Naga

Basilica Souvenir Shop (J.V. SM)—This year marked the 400th year of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, Naga's patroness, and the city saw such a huge crowd (500 more or less) of people, the likes on the floor can hardly be seen according to the real people). Basilica souvenir shop, a branch of the original one in the parish, sold around three huge boxes of gold replicas of "tex," said Marcel Tolledo who owns the stall/re. These filter-glass images come in sizes from small (around 3 inches in height) to extra large (7.2 in), and are priced from P150-P600. Peñafrancia key chains and bolters, images of the Sacred Heart, rosaries, angels and saints are also available here.

Fenomenal Pasalubong (J.V., SM)—This is the pili-nut factory where everything pili can be had: sweetened pili, salted pili, pili tarts, pili polvoron, pili jam, pili butterscotch cookies, marzipan de pili, dark chocolate bars with pili. Store manager Rani Perez said items are exported to Japan, Canada and U.S. The newest in the uniqueness of their pili, plus its long shelf life. "They also found a way to incorporate ginat-an pili skins, which used to be discarded, into cookies for texture.

PILI pastry and macaroons at right, bottled Bicol Espresso

COCEAN whirpili

PILI cookies assort

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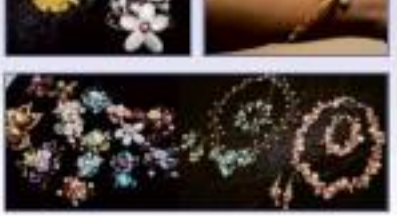
email marvon.2010@gmail.com
or visit www.facebook.com/rwmanila

Bayculo accessories
Manila Shoot, Naga
www.bayculo.net)—Bicol-artists are handmade items like necklaces, bracelets, cuffs, earrings, cellphone and bag charms, rings, hair accessories. "Assorted sardelas" made of glass, wood, pandoc beads, metallic wires, and indigenous materials. Collections are classified by brands: evening, ethnic, goth and trendy—which uses college fabrics from shop finds. Designer Marianne Dalisi won a business development prize in The Bulletboards for Bayculo last June, and is offering the items to resellers, like showroom in by her fiancé Mega, and also in Legazpi in Pacay. Check out prices, bazaars in Manila. Look for multi-way, multi-strand charm necklaces, crystal bibs and pearl-and-crystal spring coils.

BAYCRAFTS handmade accessories by Marianne Dalisi



Sunday LIFESTYLE

I love Venus Raj's 22-inch waistline

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdez

FEB. OCTOBER will be an Oktoberfest of charity. The fundraising wilwiza kicks off Oct. 8, with the Gawad Kalinga Hops Ball at The Manila Peninsula. GK hosts this event to an effort to build more homes for fabians in Mindanao.

The next day, Oct. 9, international fashion designer Furne Gee reigns his very first Philippine gala show, "Hitt of Otu-A Fashion Collection by Furne Gee," at Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Co-producer/philanthropist Kate Tinga and I are staging this show for the benefit of Philippine National Red Cross-Hotel Chapter and Assumption High School Batch 1981 foundation.

Charitable Pisces can complete the hattrick the very next day, Oct. 10, when Rajah Shop Now As Ang Pang-ISBSPI emerges to set a Guinness world record by gathering 120,000 registered women for a foot race, Run for the Pasig River. The run aims to raise funds for the river-cleaning campaign and create more awareness for the cause. Mega fundraising queen Gina Lopez is confident of success, given the auspicious date, 10.10.10. Be part of the world record by signing up at www.1001Women.ph.

KaWUNungan 2010

One of the expert race directors is Rio de la Cruz, together with Eric Imperio and Phoebe Banaga. Rio has just successfully organized the Camino marathon with energetic foe Jose Villafuerte. I've been seeing a lot of Rio and his distinctive hairstyle, lately at the Knowledge Channel KaWUNungan 2010 in Rockwell Club.

This campaign, headed by Knowledge Channel's lady boss, Bibit Lopez Bautista, aims to help generate awareness and support for the continued resource and learning gaps in the education system. Pledges can be made for runners for Knowledge, part of the local contingent of Pinoy runners headed to the NYC New York marathon. (Through www.kaWUNungan2010.com or BPI A/C 3490007175). You can also run 21km, 5Km, 10Km or 15Km in Manila on Nov. 20. The funds raised from this event will also go to the KaWUNungan 2010 Fund. For more info, contact Rhoda Lopez.

CAMSUR Marathon runners Dennis Valdez, Rio de la Cruz, Sea Princess and Marivic Marcel

KNOWLEDGE Channel lady boss Nina Lopez Bautista, coach Rio de la Cruz, Sea Princess and Ms Universe 4th runner-up Venus Raj

OCTOBER'S BEST

City Garden Hotel

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CCA

Life is beautiful in a world of healthy options

RUNNING coach Bo and his cousin Venus Raj with Des Princess, Bea Lopez-Bautista and the Boondocks Classic family

I love Venus Raj's 22-inch waistline

From page 60

Contact Gandy Ayroso at 9102151 or 0917 5979911.

Fierce Competition

At the Acquaintance Night, Bo brought along his now-famous "major major" first cousin, Ms Universe 4th runner-up Venus Raj. Aside from wanting to see her 22-inch waistline, I wanted to meet Venus to personally request her to be part of our Fierce One charity ball.

I am still crossing my fingers hoping the Filipina will free up "dress" schedule for our worthy cause. Our featured designer Furne is more excited to have Venus in the show.

After relocating to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, more than 20 years ago, Furne really built her name in international fashion. He receives basketsful of his trademark 50+ spectacular gowns so he prepares for his first grand homecoming show.

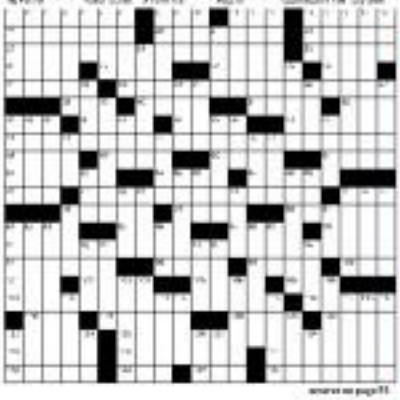
Furne also wants to wow fashion design czars as

CAMBUR Gov. Leyi Villafuerte with Belle Drandranti, Cannon First Lady Lara Villafuerte and son Luigi, German windsurfing coach Elizabeth Pecks and Dra Princess

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ONE OF MANY WORDS



answers on page 51

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ANA Suites, general manager Laura Eugenio, Krazy Garlic owner Marlo Rivera, Belo's Group human resources director Lini Martinez, Fab & Co. director for operations Ginger Gerlach, Krazy Garlic owner Cleriel Gatus, executive secretary Mildo Valera, Belo's vice president for admin and finance

MISS Gonzales, Kristina Cabanos, online editor, Philippine Tatler; Maria Carmela Sison, Special Projects writer, Philippine Tatler; Richard Marcon of Mind Hemiscope Asia Pacific

HSBC's showgirls: Raya Marasigan, Sissy Rodriguez, Sea Princess, Alexandra Rocha and Nana Gilles

I love Venus Raj's 22-inch waistline

From page H1

PLDT Beneficiary Association Eddie Cui, Ariel Kanlis, Rai Abelardo, Lea Reyes, Criselda Huerana, Rosario Montesantos, Arnold Pineda, Benjamin Limon, Jose Cunnington, Raphael Sison and Eric Alberto

TESSA Prieto-Valdes and Mayor Joejoe Binay

QUIST Yuri Dimaano, TV personality and columnist Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Digs Ayuyao, retail representative of Moet Hennessy Asia Pacific, and Lisa Ramquillo, director for marketing, Belo's Group

MYAH Lim and Kristina Lim

CHIQUI Encarnel-Durand, Jolah Go

SKINTO of Magic 89.9, Amy Pollese and Shik Rich of Magic 89.9

NICOLE Soriano of Color, Shik Rich of Boys Night Out, Janice de Leon of Color

students as part of his homecoming, so he will have a mini fashion show on Dec. 10 at Makati Shangri-La as well. With the rave reviews of the previous night's show, Pierre hopes to inspire students to follow their dreams. Buy tickets to the upcoming fashion show, please contact Maggie Linares at 09.17.8220370.

Pierre's latest collection is called "Silks and Sheers," and highlights lavish and luxurious silhouettes inspired by Queen Bess I, matriarch of the Golden Age of England in the 16th century. Every piece depicts a queenly look defined by structured shapes and sensual fabrics, all gaining homage to the Virgin Queen's fashion style.

The show's premium was held at Krazy Garlic, the newest and most unique concept of the Bistro Group of Restaurants. Is the same company behind the success of 968 Rizal's, Italiani's, Fish & Co., Flapjacks, Billy Rich and Pig Out). Guests were served amazing flavors of garlic in appetizers, salads, pizzas, pastas and seafood dishes, and even desserts! I personally liked the Krazy Garlic Crab and Corn chowder, Spanish-style tomato brûlée with caramelized garlic cloves.

At Krazy Garlic's opening night, I had the good fortune to eat the ribbon along with Bistro Group's Joseph Bautista. Krazy Garlic is at 2/F Greenhill S. For info, call 868 5752 or log on to www.krazygarlic.com.

Etihad Airways and Mega Magazine are the promoters of First of One, the other opening night. Etihad's PR Manager Shangri-La, Subic, Megaworld, PLDT, Smart and SM. And I would like to say special thanks to PR maven Edd Fuentes for all his pre-show help. Etihad Airways has been building its name, in part by sponsoring charity events. It was the major sponsor of the Assumption Gold Tournament, alongside other luminaries like Starbucks and American Eye Center.

HSBC promo

For three years now, HSBC has been a loyal and generous partner to my charity events. I have been an HSBC Red cardholder for several years now and I am always excited to share their latest dine-destined card promos. When applying for an HSBC Red MasterCard, new cardholders get three free meals of choice from Charles & Keith.

The three lucky customers become every minimum purchase of P5,000 using the Red MasterCard, during the promo period, gets the cardholder another just from Charles & Keith. At the promo launch, HSBC Philippines president and CEO Stacy Grigas and HSBC head of personal financial services Sian Lagpan were surrounded with their lovely expert in luxury marvelous the exciting package deal.

HSBC Red MasterCard was the first credit card in the Philippines aimed exclusively at women, with really shoes, credit cards and rewards are unexpectable. Big designer Pinoy is Olivia, ice cream maker Alexandra Rocha, radio talk show host Raya Marasigan and designer Stacy Rodriguez were all part of the show-live launch at Charles & Keith. Are to. So, log on to www.hsbc.com.ph or call 818888 or 9188800. Promo only Dec. 31.

SM eco bags

SM is another sponsor of Power One, and along with their donation, SM is providing SM eco bags for all the guests. SM Malls launched the SM eco bags that help save and conserve our resources. They have released four designs signifying the four elements: Breathe (air), Believe (earth), Touch (fire) and Flow (water). That is such great eco-commercial activities from SM!

E-mail the author at empressmd@inquirer.com.ph

ALEXANDRA Rocha

ADE Hagunoy-Lara, managing director of Ecoah Communications

SIDNEY Stratton, shareholder, and Amy Pollese, vice president for Business Development

ETIHAD winner of round-trip ticket Marissa Guevarra with Etihad Airways country manager Roberto Mahon

CEREMONIAL TEE-OFF: AAA board with German Ambassador Christian Ludwig Weber-Lortzer and Assumption golf team captain, Grade 7 student Gabrielle Bruce

ASSUMPTIONISTA golfer Rina Serrano and her godmom sr. Ita Flores

MAKATI Shangri-La Hotel experts team Holger Elmers, Tanya Paynor-de Belen, Giffarie Kaucar and John Kow

MAKATI Shangri-La chef Franco Bendito

PINOY design group in London: Ariel Lozada, Nicole Cuson, Portia Dee, Kaye Tinga and Lesley Mabe

DUBAI-BASED Filipino designer Portia Dee at London Fashion Week

FUSAI Qee creation

PRETTY NYC Marathon finishers Renee Cruz and Leah Carlegal

THE TUDOR Rose dessert for the First of One event at Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Pet Stop

Where humans and animals meet

Pet Parenting 101

By Pam Sia-Suarez

LIMITED OFFER: BUREAU VERITAS PHILIPPINES IS OFFERING EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL PET OWNERS FOR ONLY P1,000 PER YEAR

ALL PET parents, we love our babies unconditionally and would do absolutely anything for them to be as healthy and as happy as possible. Taking to heart the 7 steps below will help you become the best pet parent you can be.

1 Plan for your baby

Before buying or adopting a pet, consider these factors: needs of the pet versus the lifestyle of the family, breed-specific behavior, training, healthcare, time and financial commitment, among others.

2 Feed off-the-shelf food and treats

Most health problems are caused by "bad nutrition" derived from cheap commercial pet food. Recycled food is key in preventing or diminishing skin and coat ailments, allergies, digestive disorders, lethargy or obesity, organ damage, cancer, weakened immune system, and even behavioral problems. Beware of ingredients are chemical additives, exotic pesticides, artificial flavors or preservatives, by-products, or bulk fillers.

3 Provide the best veterinary care

Set high standards in choosing your baby's veterinarian, who or she will help guide you through many of the most important health-related decisions you will make as a pet parent. Establish a good relationship with your vet, and ensure that your baby gets regular check-ups to maintain optimum health conditions.

4 Pamper your baby

Regularly bathe and groom your baby using only gentle shampoos with natural ingredients that won't dry out the skin, such as preventing products from harsh fluids. For both dogs and cats, daily brushing is ideal. Invest in quality items that they need and will use frequently, such as a pet carrier that they can be securely and comfortably be transported in, a good leash or harness, a quick-drying towel for bathing, and a plush bed for dogs or a cozy condo for cats to give them a good night's sleep.

5 Give exercise and play time

Regular exercise and stimulating activities for body and mind gain without saying. Exercise prevents weight gain and obesity, which causes serious health concerns such as diabetes, digestive disorders, organ failure, musculoskeletal problems, breathing difficulties, and more. As a general rule, dogs should get at least 15 to 20 minutes of exercise daily, and cats should get at least two 10-minute play times each day. When picking out toys, make sure they are non-toxic and pet-friendly, like the ones found in Bow & Wow.

6 Train, discipline, and socialize

Pets don't know human etiquette, so it's up to pet parents to implement proper "petiquette" to make sure they grow up to be disciplined and well-mannered members of society.

7 Spay or neuter your baby

In a society where stray dogs and cats proliferate the streets, one of our biggest problems is pet overpopulation. If you don't intend to breed your pets, become part of the solution and not part of the problem. Spaying or neutering helps prevent homeless animals from being born into the world, therefore preventing animal cruelty and suffering. Spayed or neutered pets are also healthier and happier, reporting fewer incidences of cancer and reproductive cancers, infections, sexual roaming, territorial aggressive behavior. Overall, spayed or neutered pets will have a better length and quality of life.

Parenting a pet is much like parenting a child, but far more unique, because our pets will always be our babies no matter how old they get. Though it can be an incredibly daunting task at times, it is fulfilling to witness our pets grow up to become well-behaved, socialized, and smart members of society. Yes, pet parenting is a challenging, expensive, and permanent job, but the importance is rewarding, priceless, and forever more than worth it.

Exclusive offer for Philippine Daily Inquirer readers: Present this ad in any Bow & Wow store and get a premium pet hamess with a minimum single receipt purchase of P1000. Offer valid until October 31, 2010.

Bringing home a new pet

By Maricel D. Salazar

Whether you got them from a friend or from a shelter, bringing home new pets is fun and nerve-wracking especially if you have other pets dominating your house. There should be careful planning and you must set precautionary measures to avoid any untoward incidents.

If you are getting a new pet from a shelter, familiarize yourself first for a few visits. It is better to walk the dog or play with the cat before finally bringing them in your home. This is to set the mood that you are their future guardians and you'll be spending a great part of your life with them.

If you'll be bringing home a kitten or a puppy from a litter, take into consideration that you've taken them away from their foster family. They are lonely and afraid of the new environment. Try to be gentle and patient. If there are kids in the house, please watch them not to pull the tail or taller by the head, if they are kittens or puppies. If they are already adult animals, analyze their behavior first before letting the children play with them.

You may notice that the pets in your home are initially hostile to the newcomer because animals are territorial. It's not about jealousy or something, it's an animal thing. Don't force them to love each other right away. Cats are master at hostilities. Intense hostility takes only a while, later on, you'll see them all cozied up in one corner or licking each other as a sign of affection. It's a sight to behold and a guaranteed stress-lessen.

Like humans, your older pets have their own belongings such as dish bowl, bed, and even toys. To avoid friction between the animals, maintain your old pet's privileges until they get used to each other and eventually share them with the new members of the family.

While not all pet lovers can afford dog and cat food, it is still important to note that with cable scraps, they are not getting the proper nutrition they need. Giving them the right food may help prolong their life.

Consulting a vet may sometimes cost a bit but to find your pet's health should never be compromised. If you cannot afford to get the necessary shots, just make sure that the rabies shot is updated every year. Your veterinary-city's office should give free rabies shots. To those who can afford, don't skip any shots as advised by your vet. There is no in-the-vet can help boost your pet's health.

Lastly, it is better to consult your vet or read on pet behaviors. Consulting that a certain "bad" behavior is because the animal just wants to be bad is amiss. There are reasons why dogs love munching on stuff or why cats scratch on your furniture. Understanding your pet's behavior will help you build a smooth relationship with them. Your pets will love you whatever or whatever your are, it's your turn to return that favor.

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Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City, Philippines
(63 2) 867-3333

Benjarong
Dusit Thani Manila
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City, Philippines
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Tosca
Dusit Thani Manila
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City, Philippines
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Lobby Lounge
Dusit Thani Manila
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City, Philippines
(63 2) 867-3333

Jasmine
New World Hotel
Makati City, Manila Esperanza St. corner Makati Avenue, Makati City 1226, Philippines, (632) 8116888

Spices
The Peninsula Manila
Corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City
(632) 812 3456

The Lobby
The Peninsula Manila
Corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City
(632) 812 3456

Old Manila
The Peninsula Manila
Corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City
(632) 812 3456

Prince Albert Rotisserie
InterContinental Manila
No. 1 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City
(632) 7937000

Restaurant Cicou
Hotel Celeste,
2 San Lorenzo Drive corner A. Arnaiz Avenue, San Lorenzo Village, 1223 Makati, Philippines
(63 2) 889-6728 / +63 2 889-6733 / +63 917 885-8841 / +63 2 887-8080

Purple Feet
217 Nicanor Garcia Street, Makati City
887-8167

Top of the Citi by Chef Jessie
34/F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
(632) 8947461 / 7505810-11

Chef Jessie Rockwell Club
Ground Floor, Amorsolo Tower, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center
(632) 8977516 / 8986943 / 8907630

Astralis Restaurant by Diamond Hotel Philippines
R1 - 249 Lopez Drive, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City (632) 8907124

AzuThai Restaurant, Home-Style Thai Cuisine
G/F MilkyWay Bldg., 900 Arnaiz Ave (Pasay Road) corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
(+632) 817-6252 / (+632) 813-0671

Bacci Ristorante Italiano
107 Ground Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
(+632) 828 2235

Gustavus Steak Lounge
108 C. Palanca Street,
Legaspi Village,
Makati City
(+632) 813 9475

Kai Restaurant
Unit 112 Ground Floor,
Greenbelt 5, Makati City
(+632) 757 5208

Lu Restaurant
Joya South Tower, Rockwell,
Makati City
(+632) 403 3991

M Café
Ayala Museum Greenbelt 4
Makati Avenue Makati City
(+632) 757 3808

Mr. Jones
Ground Floor, Greenbelt 5
Ayala Center Makati
(+632) 500 5008 / (+632) 501 3111

People's Palace
Ground Floor, Garden Side,
Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center Makati
(+632) 729 2888

Sala
Podium Level, Lacson Building,
6752 Ayala Avenue corner
Makati Avenue, Makati City
(+632) 751 9424 / (+632) 893 8242

Sala Bistro
Ground Floor, Garden Side
Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center Makati
(+632) 729 7500

Damaso
Unit 2-B3 Greenbelt 5,
Ayala Center, Makati City
(632) 729 5311 / 0917-8686998

Cantinetta
Pasong Tamo
Ground Floor Karrivin Plaza Bldg 2316
Pasong Tamo, Makati City
(632) 892-6873

Society Lounge
Ground Floor ATRIUM of Makati Bldg.
Makati Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas,
Makati City
(632) 408-1852

Il Ponticello Café Ristorante
2/F Antel 2000 Bldg.
121 Valero St., Salcedo Village,
Makati City
(632) 8874988/ (632) 8877154

Old Swiss Inn
Ground Floor Somerset Olympia
Makati Ave, Makati City
(632) 818-0986 / 818-8251 /
894-5826 / 812-1010
loc 511-512

Bowler Restaurant
28 Paseo Parkview Suites,
Valero cor Sedano St.,
Salcedo Village Makati City
(632) 894-3589

Cantinetta
Rockwell
Block 9 Hidalgo St.
Rockwell Center
(632) 403-9145

Terrace@5th
G/F, Greenbelt 5-Phase 2,
Ayala Center, Makati
(632) 729-0660 / 729-6968

TAGUIG RESTAURANTS

Enderun 101
Enderun Colleges
1100 Campus Ave, McKinley Hill
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
(632) 856-5000 loc 101

Trio
2/F Fort Pointe Bldg.
Bonifacio Global City
894-1601

Cav Wineshop - Café
G/F "The Spa Bldg." Lot 5, Quadrant 6
City Center Fort Bonifacio,
Global City, Taguig City
(+632) 856 1798

Chef Laudico Bistro Filipino
Ground Floor Pic Net 2 Bricsen
Building, 3rd Avenue
Bonifacio Global City Taguig
(+632) 856 0634

Chelsea Market & Café
Bonifacio High Street Serendra
Bonifacio Global City Taguig
(+632) 989 7811 / (+632) 989 7812

New Orleans
86 Bonifacio High Street Global City
Taguig
(+632) 856 4326

Pasto, The Fort
Ground Flr. Fort Pointe Bldg.
Bonifacio Global City
(632) 884-1502

Zao
Unit 1C16 Serendra,
Fort Bonifacio Global City,
Taguig City, Metro Manila
(632) 856-2819

Fez
Ground Floor, Serendra Commercial
Strip, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
(632) 981-1840

Café Puccini
Unit 12 The Fort
Strip Bonifacio
Global City,
Taguig City
(632) 816-3065

Thai@Silk
Ground Floor Serendra Plaza
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
856-0386 to 87

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CRU
Marriott Hotel Manila
No. 10 Newport Boulevard
Newport City Complex, Pasay City
(632) 908-0992

Highland Steakhouse
Unit 2131-2135 North Wing
2/F, Entertainment Mall,
SM Mall of Asia,
JW Diokno Blvd, Pasay City
556-8768 / 901-3245

PASIG CITY RESTAURANTS

Bar One,
Holiday Inn Galleria Manila
4th level, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila,
One ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City (632) 633-7111

Oakroom
Oakwood Premier Manila
Oakwood Premier Joy—Nostalg Center Manila,
17 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
1600, Philippines

22 Prime
Discovery Suite
22nd Flr, Discovery Suite,
ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
(632) 719 6821 / 719 6822 / 719 8888

Enchante Restaurant & Bar by Chef Jessie
2nd Floor, Joy–Nostalg Center, 17 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(632) 4706035 / 4703663 / 4704310

Muruve Wine Cellar & Bistro
Ortigas Home Depot Complex
Julia Vargas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
(+632) 706 0617

Pasto, El Pueblo
El Pueblo Julia Vargas Ave. cor ADB Ave. Ortigas Center
Pasig City
634-0157

Cantinetta
The Podium
G/F The Podium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig

Katzer Restaurant & Bar
2/F Wyvisure Corporate Center, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
6389018/6389821

MANDALUYONG RESTAURANT

Borough
G/F The Podium Mall,
12 ADB Ave. Mandaluyong City
(632) 5708906

MANILA RESTAURANTS

Lili,
Hyatt Hotel & Casino
Hyatt Hotel & Casino
Manila, 1588 Pedro Gil
Corner M.H. del Pilar
Malate Manila
(63 2) 245 1234 or
(63 2) 2478663

Century Tsukiji
Century Tsukiji
Japanese Restaurant,
Century Park Hotel
599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street
Malate, Manila
(32) 528-8888 / (632) 528-5835

Top of the Century
Century Park Hotel
599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street
Malate, Manila
(32) 528-8888 / (632) 528-5835

SAN JUAN RESTAURANTS

Pasto, Greenhills
Theatre Mall Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan
(632) 722-5006 / 722-4982

Café Ysabel
455 P. Guevarra Street, cor. C.M. Recto St. San Juan,
Metro Manila
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Pacific Lounge, Pan Pacific Hotel
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie D. Velarde

No 'Deal' yet for Kris Aquino
/35

Julia on eating, praying, loving

LOS ANGELES—"I'm glad to see everybody with their clothes on," quipped **Julia Roberts**, referring to the scandal that is front of her, when she rose to center stage the premiere day on the pool and lavish grounds of a hotel in Cancun, Mexico.

Sunlight filtering through the windows of this hotel in the Nikolaus Wolcott made the actress look more radiant....her humorous smile even more dazzling as she teased the reporters: "It's a little bit weird walking around with you without your shirts on. It's a relaxing atmosphere but it's a little funny, don't you think?"

In the film adaptation of **Elizabeth Gilbert**'s 2006 best-selling memoir, "Eat Pray Love," Julia portrays the author's post-divorce journey of self-discovery, in which she finds the true appreciation of sensuality, saved by eating in Italy, the power of prayers in India and love and balance in Bali.

Javier Bardem, James Franco, Richard Jenkins and **Billy Crudup** also star in the romance-drama directed by "Glee" creator **Ryan Murphy**.

Framing a woman at a crossroads in her

PAGE 3

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rishen V. Nejmeldeen

Britney 'Glee' ratings grabber

NEW YORK—Britney Spears is a dream for Fox's hit musical "Glee."

Tuesday's episode that featured the star in some dream-sequence cameos drew an estimated 13.8 million viewers. The Nielsen Co. says it was the second most-watched episode of the show ever, behind last spring's return from a hiatus.

BRITNEY Spears

That's also an increase from the 11.1 million people who had tuned in to the "Glee" season premiere a week earlier. Spears was also a trending topic on Twitter during the telecast, exemplifying one of TV's biggest new trends: viewers using social media to communicate with friends while watching.

The show's cast performed five Spears songs during the episode, including "I'm a Slave 4U" and "Stronger." AP

No meddling in Mariel, Toni catfight

By Marinel R. Cruz

COMMENT: Vice Ganda says he had nothing to do with the highly publicized catfight between his friends, actress Toni Gonzaga and TV host Mariel Rodriguez.

He has not even tried to mediate the dispute, he added.

"I know why they fought, but I didn't want it. Whatever happened was both their doing. I got involved only because they shared things to me. I just listened to their stories and never took sides," Vice told reporters in a recent press conference for his launching film "Petrang Kabayo."

In an interview on the Sunday gabfest "Tonight Girls," Toni admitted that she has recently cut ties with Mariel. Toni said she confronted Mariel after learning that the latter had been bad-mouthing her.

Rumor has it that Vice was Toni's source.

"If ever I know things about them, I would never tell anyone. I know how to keep secrets. I'm sure both Toni and Mariel are hurting. They're both loving daughters and friends. I never wish for them to fight," Vice said.

Vice's closest girl friends in the business are Toni and Anne Curtis, his "Showtime" co-host. "I only became close to Mariel because of Toni," he explained.

Vice confessed that he has not made any effort to reconcile Toni and Mariel. "I really don't want to meddle. I feel that it will only make matters worse. They're both mature women. I'm sure they know what they're doing," he said.

He added that what happened between Toni and Mariel was caught him a valuable lesson. "I'm now more conscious of what I say or do in front of other people. I now think of what others will say about me. People say

NOMEDDLING/31

"I KNOW how to keep secrets," says Vice Ganda.

'Wall Street' sequel is a financial and emotional cliffhanger

IT'S BEEN more years since the first "Wall Street" financial drama that hit viewers when they lived and breathed with no cool, cold and even cruel depiction of how money and greed can blight and ruin the men's souls. Since then, Oliver Stone's visionary film has turned out to be prescient—sadly prophetic, with the real Wall Street crumbling to psychic ruins and ashes, bringing many powerful financial institutions down with them.

Stone's "prophetic" film has had such a huge "release-time" impact on the consciousness of millions that it was deemed to be foolhardy of him to announce sequels coming up with its post-financial debacle sequel.

And yet that's exactly what the daring filmmaker has done, many years after the fact. The sequel, "Money Never Sleeps," is currently playing in town, with Michael Douglas reprising his signature role as top financial dervish and money-magnate Gordon Gekko, and Shia LaBeouf and Carey Mulligan co-starring.

So, how does the ruler film shape up as a sequel? The good news is that, despite some lost and forgot moments, it succeeds on its own terms as a sort of post-apocalyptic romance— with intimations of its even more massive financial apocalypse possibly to come.

"Money" is the word for Stone's new film, among the gods it set for itself is an attempt to sum up the many complex events and issues involved in the debacle. Despite Stone's stalwart efforts, the serious issues rather forged, but we still appreciate a strong filmmaker's ability to at least try to make sense of it all.

Nestor U. Jaurez

VIEWFINDER

Beyond dollars and cents

Stone does better when he goes beyond the financial facts to focus on Gekko's personal story after he is released from prison for his part in a world-class swindle scheme. It is revealed that he has a daughter (Mulligan) who wants no part of his life, because she thinks he drove his mom to her death.

Gekko and his estranged daughter are brought together again, because it turns out that her boyfriend is LaBeouf's character, a young financier determined to make his own right after dreams of becoming the next Gordon Gekko ... without the mink.

He convinces his girlfriend to at least agree to a meeting with her father, and even if the dinner doesn't result in a reunion, he becomes Gekko's protégé.

Even as he learns valuable lessons as Gekko's heel, the protégé turns to avenge the death by suicide of his first mentor (Frank Langella), who was devastated financial ruin by the machinations of another major stockbroker (Josh Brolin). To get his payout of Bush, LaBeouf cultivates himself into Brolin's organization, and if he gets his payoff on him.

Many other factors intervene and complicate the scenario, including a freakout plot twist in which the ostensibly "reformed" Gekko shows his true colors.

All in all, it's a rather rounder tale of a financial chilling-out, which only the inner likes of Oliver Stone could have pulled off.

Tough spots

Yes, the movie gets itself stuck in some tough spots. But it has a lead star upcoming up of, but at times and, the viewer both more "distanced" than understood.

Acting times to clarifying the movie's rough scenario are the exceedingly fine performances turned in by Douglas, LaBeouf, Mulligan, Langella and Brolin.

While the rich and perceptive portrayals don't contribute to the production, it is necessary to make more than a "Dynasty" drama, and encompass the mythology of international human greed at its cutest heart of hearts.

"HAYOP SA COMEDY! MAJOR-MAJOR ANG SAYA"

VICE GANDA

PETRANG KABAYO

IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE OCTOBER 13

OPENS OCT. 6

Do you have a ghost story to tell? Real ghost stories from Asia as told by those who survived the beatings.

BANGKOK HAUNTED 3

IZA CALZADO LOVI POE MARICAR REYES

JOEM BASCON JANUS DEL PRADO MEGAN YOUNG MO TWISTER JANUS ADVINO SARAH LAHBATI

GABBY CONCEPCION

Isang buhay,
Isang milyon ang natutunya.
Hihingi tao ang nagsusugal ng kanilang buhay (alam sa mga ispirito ng) ...

WHITE HOUSE

A film by Topel Lee

ANGEL JACOB RICHARD QUAN LUI VILLAFUE JOEY PARAS

OPENS OCTOBER 20

THE FIRST BITE DRAWS THE BLOOD. THE BLOOD DRAWS THE PACK.

3D

SHOWS ITS TEETH

PIRANHA 3D

PARENTAL ADVISORY: SOME SCENES IN THE MOVIE MAY AFFECT SENSIBILITY OF YOUNG TEENAGER

R-13 IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE OCTOBER 8

THE cast of 'NCIS'

CUCK!

Endearing, engaging 'NCIS'

By Oliver H. Palmerston
Court Jester

THE SUCCESSFUL crime drama series "NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service)" continues to strike a balance between dread and optimism, between the humorous and serious, mystery or. Marine-related death crimes every episode is solved by an intrepid group of investigators, experts in their respective fields chasing a bandit-head.

The seventh season of "NCIS" continues easily debated on August on our solid channels. In the season opener the NCIS agents embark on a daring rescue mission after tracking down three missing women, special agent Tim David (Gate de Bilko).

Based in Washington, DC and led by Jethro "Boss" Gibbs (Mark Harmon), the small but talented NCIS Major Case Response Team is composed of Tim David, Agent Ziva (Michael Weatherly), and Agent Medical (Sean Murray). Created by writing Donald Bellisario and executive producer Shelley Meadows, "NCIS" is currently the 13th Cultural.

Friendly rapport

The friendly rapport between the characters remains intact as the discovery of grisly scenes and the revelation of social events in their subsequent interviewing.

Movies aren't merely problem-solving missions; dominion get to shine regularly as roles in their personalities are developed. A few years have lessened us, as we see gradually added to tragic events from fellow Gibbs' past. The snappy repartee and occasional bickering between Dr. Mallor and McGee keep things from becoming dreary.

The show recently spawned a spinoff series "NCIS: Los Angeles," which has its own character and atmosphere.

"NCIS" enters 7 episodes will be shown on Oct. 7 and 8 (8:15 p.m.) and Oct. 9 (8:20 a.m., 11:25 a.m.) on Fox. "NCIS: Los Angeles" airs Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 CHARLIE ST. CLOUD 2:00, 5:15 11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40

3 LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS 3D / 2D 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

2 WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS / PG-13 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45

4 LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS 11:15, 2:45, 5:15 DEVIL / PG-13 7:25, 9:45

POWER PLANT CINEMA

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE / PG 10:00 / 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40

WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS / PG-13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

CHARLIE ST. CLOUD / PG13 1:30, 3:55, 6:50, 9:10, 10:35

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE / IN 3D / 2D 12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:50

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WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS / PG13 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:30, 10:30

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Overheard

LIEMAN HUBERO, quoted in Star Magazine's Cry Game, on today's taboo headline: "Managers didn't really exist before. Ngayon, mas tiga-tumangkilik na. Ilang minuto, yung handler pa ang mangunang mukha'ng Hyper ngayon. Kung ngayon ka pinanganak, ngayon din dumarating 'yung panis na mukha'ng pa-edu at 'handler at secretary' kung gumala. Kung makasalubong, ano?"

Combative . . .

From page 3

"Films about JF history need never be boring" (TGI Entertainment, Sept. 10): "I must have been having a senior moment when I gave 2004 as the date I was commissioned to write the Indonggra screenplay. I actually wrote it in 2002, the year after the Indonggra centennial (Sept. 28, 1901-2001)."

Top of the tabloids

The top three tsismis in boycott-tabloid-fanatics last week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- Kim Chiu napping Sefue
- Lhyzlle pinagbabaraha nagpa-away si Shaina Magdayao (Ma-intriga pa si parents ni Shaina?)
- Iza bagong host ng Got Talent?
- Mariel Rodriguez-team pa rin ba sila ng kay Robin Padilla (Lolo-lolo time?)
- Mariel, Robin pasay ang sanwe (Bakay na bahay ngayon?)
- Si Hamel ang may pinakamalalaking problema (Problema ng mga 'yan.)
- 'Di ako madamot! ... Bella Dantemen
- Ibra Montero inbwisitan a subway Miles dela sa "Survivor"?
- Sana raw napawisik ngayon si Marian Rivera, Dingdong Dantes nakipag-Bar Jay Sola Padilla
- Ibra Montero sub-way tales, kwela ever?

No meddling in Mariel, Toni catfight

From page 6

success has gone to my head and made me egotistic—I disagree. Who indeed else can appear here but me?"

He plays the lead role in the Mina Bernardo romantic flick "Writing Rubbles," a remake of the 1980 movie featuring Roderick Paulate.

"When I first heard of this project, I felt scared. I wasn't sure whether I was up to it. I kept asking myself, Am I ready for this? Is now the right time?" Jhiral Nieto and Gigo Alfonso, his fellow teenagers, said there's no better time to do this than now. I trusted them so I agreed," said Vice.

One of the most difficult things he had to do for the film, he said, was to handle a huge python. "I was scared to even touch it, but Ate/Direk Mina assured me to wrap the snake around my neck. Inayaan ko na. In the end, I did it because I felt guilty for making the cast and crew wait for me all the wee hours. I knew everybody was tired so I said I'd do it so we can all go home. It was instant," he said.

As the movie's pho day (Oct. 13) approaches, Vice is starting to feel the pressure. "It's no different from what I experienced while preparing for my concert for the Araneta Coliseum in May's. I'm having differeny shopping. I hope I didn't get alopecia from stress like the last time," he said.

Also featured in "Writing Rubbles" are Luis Manzano, Bojour Jennings, Candy Pangilinan, Sam Pinto, Dexter Doreen, Joy Viado, John Arcilla and Melissa Morales.

E-mail nerves@inquirer.com.ph

ALL APPREHENSIONS disappeared when Julia Roberts met Javier Bardem on the set of "Eat Pray Love."

Julia on eating . . .

From page 2

life, Julia has scenes where she shows her most personal side, as when she breaks into tears during a communal prayer.

"The great thing about Liz's writing is that it's so evocative," Julia said, crediting the author. "Everything that happens to her, especially the highly emotional things... she transcribe them an incredible clear. So to say those scenes were particularly easy to play, but I discovered, in portraying her, that if I really just accepted in my mind the space that she was in, what she was going through and what the real trials were, then the scene would just reveal itself."

Authenticity

Julia said filming in actual locations also helped her give a dose of authenticity to her performance. If she had to eat pizza and plates of pasta for many takes in Italy, that's fine with her. She stressed: "That's the whole point in this story of Liz going there to really just to kind of enjoy that part of life of nourishing and taking care of yourself. So it was enjoyable to participate in that... in an a lot of pizza and whatever was put down in front of me. 10, 12 or 15 times."

Showing the scenes in Bali where she finds true love with a man played by Javier was probably an easy task for Julia. But having just seen the scene convincingly depicted in a ruthless manner in "No Country for Old Men" as the most, Julia at first couldn't picture Javier as a timeless lover. She explained: "I mean not really looking for... would be coming face to face with Javier in Bali and doing all these sweet tender scenes because I could only picture him from 'No Country for Old Men.' Nobody wants to kiss that guy right? I had apprehensions but he was so sweet, delightful and surprisingly lithe too. All of my apprehensions went out of my mind when he kissed me."

Self-discovery

In line with the book and movie's theme of self discovery, Julia was asked if she is already as at points in her life where she's comfortable with her vision in. "You get to a place where you have comfort with the real essence of who you are, what it means to you and the kind of person you're going to be, what your moral compass is and the road that goes alongside it," she said. "But you never stop pursuing personal understanding of yourself and the world—how you relate to people, how people relate to you."

Julia, wife to cinematographer Jason Moeller for eight years now, with a daughter and two sons, said her life is beautifully defined by marriage. "That's what part of marriage is really about isn't it? I think we're all influenced, it unintending, whether it's with a man, friends or close members of your family, influences us and tells us who we are at one time in our life."

Milestones

As with Liz's journeys around the world which unsentimental her life, Julia has had several milestones that radically changed her own life. She disclosed: "I've had so many life altering experiences—meeting my husband, having my children, being with my best friend since I was a child. These are the defining chapter in my life."

Replying to a question about the book's spiritual aspect, Do autism and she thinks there's a rise in the number of people seeking much more than physical nourishment. She declared: "I think that right now, so many people are getting more interested in their spiritual process because you realize that the only way that the world, the government, is going to work is if we can all come together in a unity we can all understand. That's only going to come when people have some kind of self awareness and peace to get together as a bigger collective."

On taking breaks from her hectic lifestyle, Julia said: "I need to take a time out every year by myself, as a sort of a reset button to just sit and evaluate whatever time had gone by read a book, collect myself and maybe get a tan too. It's important to have the chance to do that. You don't necessarily have to travel to do that but it's important to have that moment for yourself where you can evaluate."

E-mail the columnist at rmcpalen_1506@yahoo.com

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5 DO
6 LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS (Digital 3D)
7 DEVIL
8 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
9 WALL
10 PARANTS

MANILA
1 CHARLIE ST. CLOUD
2 WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS
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5 DO
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5 I DO
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5 MALI
6 I DO
7 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

CEBU NAM
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No 'Deal' yet; Kris Aquino not keen on rehashed show

She'll miss Pokwang and Valerie, and isn't upset with Robin and Mariel

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

BIR SQUINO said she wasn't upset, but admitted that she left the ABS-CBN show "Pilipinas Win na Win" with a heavy heart.

At the party to celebrate her comeback as endorser for the Belo Medical Group, Aquino had the chance to clarify myriad issues concerning her abrupt departure from the program.

She revealed that the Kapamilya management had asked her to leave the fabulous show to make way for new hosts Dawn J. Perez, Boy Valera, Nonoy Zuñiga and Monica Hanna who will take over starting tomorrow.

Did she feel bad that column Robin Padilla and Mariel Rodriguez had abandoned her midstream, leaving the show only days after its debut on July 31?

"No," the unwavering reality: "Honestly, I just felt that when you make a commitment it shouldn't be for just one week. I also expressed that to management. ... The Ape (Abing Soriano) and Willie Revillame (hosts of shows that preceded "Win") were given years to build their audience ... while they expected a miracle from me."

She admitted that, although she had learned to accept her "failure" as part of her creativity, she remained a tad "stubborn" about the channel's overnight proposal.

"Di nakakaawa (I was not pregnant)," she said—alluding to a revival of her old game show "Study or Sit Down."

She pointed out: "I know that the TV gurus of 'Deal' are now being asked, but we are still discussing things."

She underscored that she had yet to sign the dotted line for "Deal."

"I felt that I had done everything I could ... for that show. When 'Deal' was at its peak in 2007, my brother Boy was running for senator. Now, he is President."

As such, it's only natural for her to "want something new and different," she explained.

"I'm facing super blues about it," she quipped. "I asked my bosses to come up with a show that isn't a rehash. A project that would allow me to shine. As of this moment (during the Belo launch last Wednesday), I am not yet committed with 'Deal.'"

She assured: "Before doing a new show, I think my personal life should be in order first."

Aquino, who is in the middle of annulment proceedings from basketball player James Yap, considered going on a blind date with Julia Roberts in "Eat Pray Love."

"I was so dramatic about it. I told my friends that ... I'd eat my way through Europe for two weeks. Since I don't like to fly, for the 'Pray' part, I'd go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land."

As for the 'Love' chapter?

"That would rest till next year. Or if my sister Ballie could have her way, when I turn 40," she joked.

Instead of getting on a vacation, she's committed to do "Dalaw," one of Star Cinema entries in this November's Metro Manila Film Festival.

It made losing "Win" a lot more bearable, she said. "Could face the press with a smile on my face because I know I have a movie that I can be excited about."

Still, she confessed that she's reluctant to say goodbye to "Win" cohosts Pokwang and Valerie Concepcion.

"For the past few weeks, Robin had been saying and saying," she related. "I'll miss them and the staff who chose to stay with us. My sister Ballie said (Sept. 30) was my wish to fly over to Pinky-ahid (Cebu). It may be tough to live with me as a wife, but it's easy to work with me!"

She believed set again.

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Combative Starlet loses lucrative contract

By the Entertainment staff

PRETTY STARLET, who figured in a nasty scandal recently, was allegedly dropped by a top-notch company as endorsers.

Seems the once could no longer tolerate the unsavory reputation of PR as an arrogant prima donna.

Worse, PR purportedly has a potty mouth and has been known to rudely

abuse who are not as "assertive" as she is.

As a result of PR's nasty foul behavior, the blue-chip company supposedly hired another Gorgeous Actress who can attach to the latter's wholesome image and sweet code of conduct.

Loyalty redefined

Added fuss of a popular tech icon team have allegedly redefined the meaning of loyalty, according to a network insider.

PA's supposedly got expert whom their idols, Cute Actor and Pretty Actress, parted ways.

Kia got more feral when they heard that PR became dependent over the breakup.

Kia's got even more furious when GA started going out with Jet in training Actress.

Now, there is talk that some of the Kia's have been sending dire death threats to GA.

Speculated, GA has started keeping her distance from GA.

Kia's camp even blasted the rumor that she is now being pursued by Monster Hunk.

Seems the Kia's have gotten their wish, for now.

The final straw

Former teen idols, fine Actor 1 and his lover, Gay Actor 2, were a couple for over a decade.

What ended their cute ideal romance?

According to GA1, he ruined a blind recovery since GA2 sampled other hunks in the past.

GA1 admitted that he was no saint either and that he also strayed. "But I took my boys to a motel."

The final straw was when GA1 caught GA2 in their own bedroom with another man.

"He could feel sorried. Not me, in the bed we shared," GA1 told confidant sources.

Reality bites again

Handsome Star, a product of a reality search, allegedly received a harsh reality check recently.

A notorious playboy, 30 would use after anyone, under that anything in a skirt.

One of his conquests, however, left him a rather disgusting souvenir: a sexually transmitted disease.

All had to undergo a series of painful treatments as a result of that one night of pleasure.

Spoiler source

Network insiders have a suspect concerning the spoilers circulating about an Kapamilya Program.

We think the lead/s source is one of the cast members who is "close" to the Honky but of the UP's rival show.

Competition wars in ugly head.

HAHA/Mariel Hora!

Mrs. Intelligence

Maria Mariel Hora, 1966 Malibu-ing Filipino-Hapa International, won a special award, Miss Intelligence, at the recent Mrs. Universe beauty pageant held in Lithuania.

Hora reportedly shone in the Q&A portion and impressed the judges to the panel discussions of the competition, talent (home in-cized on violence and human trafficking.

'Senior moment'

Dito Lacuba is rushed to say he made a mistake when he was interviewed for the article